

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 5, which would direct the President to establish Hire a Veteran Week.

As a veteran, I want to thank my colleague, Representative HOLT, for introducing this resolution on behalf of our brave troops who fight for our freedom.

Madam Speaker, unemployment rates for veterans in their twenties are almost twice as high as their civilian peers.

This is unacceptable.

We're sending 18- and 19-year-olds to fight in a mistaken war in Iraq.

The least we can do is make sure that they have a good job when they come home.

The system is broken, Madam Speaker. And our veterans are paying the price.

Our veterans show us excellence in the battlefield—they will show us excellence in the workplace.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to give our veterans the dignity and respect they deserve.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL GATHRIGHT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Daniel Gathright, who passed away January 25, 2007, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Dan Gathright was a pillar of the community of Arkadelphia and of Southern Arkansas for decades. While attending school at Southern State College, now known as Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Dan worked as a dispatcher at the Magnolia Police Department. Upon graduating, he worked at Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville before being named Assistant Administrator at Crittenden Memorial Hospital in West Memphis. In 1979, Dan moved to Arkadelphia and joined the Baptist Medical System where he served as Administrator of Twin Rivers Medical Center. He was later named Administrator and Senior Vice President of Baptist Health where he served until his death.

Dan Gathright was a member of the First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, the Arkadelphia Rotary, the Clark County American Red Cross and a Board Member of the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Dan also served as President of the Clark County United Way and

the Arkadelphia Band Boosters. His dedication to making Arkadelphia a better place to live could not have been greater. I am glad our paths crossed and I had the honor of knowing and working with Dan on health care issues.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Shayron Looney Gathright of Warren; his son Michael Gathright of Frisco, Texas; his father, Archie Gathright of Magnolia; his sister Maretta Bullock of McNeil; and to his 2 grandchildren. Dan Gathright will be greatly missed in Arkadelphia and throughout the State of Arkansas.

COMMENDING DONALD HOFFPAUIR

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the devoted service of Donald Hoffpauir to the people of Acadia Parish. Donald recently retired following twenty-two years of dedicated work in the Acadia Parish Tax Assessor's Office, where he served as a Personal Property Manager.

Throughout his career, Donald was known as a skilled and loyal manager, always willing to assist his co-workers and the many customers who called upon the tax assessor's office.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Acadia Parish in wishing Donald Hoffpauir a happy retirement, and congratulating him for his invaluable accomplishments for the state of Louisiana.

EFFECT OF BUDGET RESOLUTION ON FORT KNOX

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. I rise to register my strong disappointment over the dramatic cuts made to the Military Construction account in this year's budget for military installations affected by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

I am proud to represent Fort Knox. The overwhelming support demonstrated by local citizens, base officials and elected leaders continues to cement Fort Knox's position as a premiere military installation surrounded by communities that are wonderful places to live, work and raise families.

As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations, Fort Knox is presently transforming from an institutional training installation to a multi-functional installation that will include an active duty infantry brigade combat team and the Army's Human Resources Command.

Construction has already begun on base to align infrastructure and industry to accommo-

date these new military operations. Simultaneously, many of the communities that surround Fort Knox are preparing for the arrival of thousands of new military and civilian employees and their families; negotiating contracts for new homes, schools, businesses and road improvements. These are indeed exciting times for the region.

The Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 budgeted approximately 5.6 billion dollars for military construction at BRAC impacted bases. House Leaders are now proposing budget cuts that would reduce promised funding by approximately 3 billion dollars. This funding shortfall would seriously impede necessary preparations at a number of bases including Fort Knox, leaving the installation and community ill-equipped to accommodate requisite changes.

Democrat leaders moved unilaterally to cut these funds, contradicting Speaker PELOSI's pledge to ensure an "open, honest and full debate" on all matters before the House. If my colleagues and I in the minority were allowed due consideration in the process, preserving full funding would have been our top priority.

In the face of significant changes, Ft. Knox and other installations need our full commitment to provide in full resources that will allow them to set new standards of excellence and grow as an integral part of our nations defense capacities.

ADMINISTRATION INTERFERENCE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I gave the attached statement, in opposition to the Administration's interference in Climate Change science on January 30, 2007.

Hearing on "Political Interference with Science: Global Warming" January 30, 2007.

I want to first thank the Chairman for holding this hearing that, like so many other hearings we will be having, is long overdue. Global warming will be a defining issue of this generation and of many to come.

There is substantial scientific certainty around climate change. Scientists are confident that global warming is happening. Similarly, the vast majority of experts on the issue agree that human activities are to blame. If that was not obvious already, it will be after this week when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its long awaited report.

The only uncertainty to be debated is the pace and intensity of warming that will face us. Will the pace of warming remain steady or accelerate predictably? Or can we expect

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

more abrupt changes as enormous stores of methane hydrate, a gas with several times the heat retention capacity of carbon dioxide, is released from the ocean floor and expanses of permafrost? These gases are released as the natural mechanisms keeping them sequestered are broken down by warming. Permafrost melts. Ocean temperature and acidity rise. The historical record contains strong evidence that abrupt climate change has corresponded with a single release of vast stores of methane hydrate.

This uncertainty is real. It stands in stark contrast to the alleged uncertainties that have been manufactured by those who stand to profit by perpetuating the status quo as long as possible.

To resolve and manage the real uncertainty, we must have the best scientific information possible at our fingertips in order to weigh risks and benefits of all available policy responses. That is only one of the reasons that the casualness with which this Administration sends unqualified political appointees to edit scientific findings is so pernicious. It is also destructive because accurate information is the bedrock of any democratic society. Without it, citizens cannot hold their leaders accountable for their actions, or in this case, inactions.

Sadly, such distortion of the truth has a proven track record of effectiveness. Indeed an entire industry has been created to manufacture scientific doubt where there is none. It is a technique that was mainstreamed by the tobacco industry and refined by others who stand to profit from scientific obfuscation like the chemical industry and the pharmaceutical industry. In fact, an entire industry that specializes in creating scientific uncertainty has taken root. It consists of PR agencies, pseudo scientific consultants and well paid think tanks. The strategy not only works, but is profitable.

Making matters worse, today we will see evidence that the taxpayers have been subsidizing the distortion of the findings of world class scientists on the topic. At best, it is corporate welfare. At worst, it undermines democracy and puts the delicate ecosystems on which we all intimately depend, at risk. My hope is that this hearing marks the beginning of the end of this practice.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2007, Hrant Dink, a distinguished Armenian journalist, was shot dead outside the offices of his newspaper Agos in Istanbul, Turkey. A progressive voice of reason and hope for Armenians living in Turkey and around the world, Hrant Dink fought tirelessly to engage the Turkish community in open discussion of the many injustices Armenians have experienced in the past and present including the Genocide of 1915 and current human rights violations.

Hrant Dink struggled daily with the difficulties of disclosing the Armenian Genocide to the public in Turkey, yet he continued to make the difficult his lifelong passion. In his weekly columns, Dink often spoke of the complexities

he felt being an Armenian who happened to be a citizen of Turkey—a country that fails to acknowledge that the Armenian Genocide occurred. As a result, Dink was charged and convicted of insulting Turkey's identity. In October 2005, after writing about the Armenian Genocide, he was given a 6-month suspended sentence.

Hrant Dink was killed because he was a courageous and outspoken journalist and continued to write his columns in hopes of educating and informing the people of Turkey. As Turkey continues to evolve as a modern secular state, it must understand that democracy requires more than free elections; freedom of the press is essential.

I express my condolences to the family, and colleagues of Hrant Dink. He was a courageous, committed columnist, and a mentor and friend to many. He will be remembered and missed.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT EVERETT PATTON

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Army Staff Sergeant Everett Patton for his courageous service to our country during his recent deployment in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Patton, a resident of Owensboro, Kentucky, is currently recovering from severe burns at the Brooke Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas following an IED attack.

Staff Sergeant Patton began his military career in the United States Marine Corps. After a brief tenure working in civilian construction, Mr. Patton and his wife Christy enlisted in the Army in January 1999. He was first assigned as a Specialist in the heavy construction equipment operator field with C Company 5th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Staff Sergeant Patton reenlisted in 2002 and was placed in the 562nd Engineer Company in Alaska as squad leader. He was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2005 for his first six-month tour as part of the 172nd Stryker Brigade. He returned to Iraq for a second tour in 2006.

While operating a bulldozer, Staff Sergeant Patton struck an IED that exploded and quickly engulfed his vehicle in flames. Gratefully, he survived the explosion but suffered severe burns over almost 70% of his body.

Staff Sergeant Patton is making a remarkable recovery in the burn unit at Brooke Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. On January 29th, he was honored with the Purple Heart Award. He remains in high spirits with the love and support of his wife and five children.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Staff Sergeant Patton for selflessly standing in harm's way to protect our freedom and way of life. His courage and sacrifice represent the very best of what it means to be a United States soldier and citizen.

It is my great privilege to recognize Staff Sergeant Everett Patton today, before the en-

tire U.S. House of Representatives, for his generous service and unflinching duty to our great country. My colleagues and I wish him a quick return to good health.

IN MEMORY OF NATHAN BARRETT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Nathan Barrett, who passed away January 25, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Nathan Barrett was a pillar of the community of Warren and Bradley County for decades. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Nathan returned to Warren where he was the owner and operator of Barrett-Pirtle Pharmacy since 1960. In 1964, Nathan received the A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award, one of the most prestigious professional pharmacy honors in Arkansas. In 2005, Nathan was honored by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy for 50 years of service as a certified pharmacist.

Nathan was a member of the First Baptist Church of Warren where he served as Deacon, Sunday School Director and member of the choir. Nathan was also a member of the Warren Rotary Club, past President of the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce, an Eagle Scout and a member of Order of the Arrow in the Boy Scouts of America. His dedication to making Warren and South Arkansas a better place to live could not have been greater.

I am glad our paths crossed and that I had the honor of knowing Nathan and calling him my friend.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Mary King Barrett of Warren; his two daughters, Edie Coleman of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Laurie Moore of Ruston, Louisiana; his sister, Peggy Barrett of Greenbriar; and to his 4 grandchildren. Nathan Barrett will be greatly missed in Warren and throughout the state of Arkansas.

HONORING ACADIANA HIGH SCHOOL'S WRECKIN' RAMS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams for winning the 5A Louisiana State Football Championship in the Superdome last month. The Wreckin' Rams defeated Sulphur High School 13-10 to win their first-ever state title. The victory was capped off by a last minute 32-yard field goal by Drew Alleman.

After kicking a 42-yard field goal to tie the game at 10-10, Alleman split the uprights on the game's final play to seal Acadiana's win. The championship ended a 13-2 season for the Rams.

Acadiana's coach, Ted Davidson, expressed his excitement after the game. "This is the most competitive team I've ever coached. This

is the fifth game this year that we've won in the last 30 seconds of the game. They just refuse to lose," Davidson said in the Lafayette Daily Advertiser.

Madam Speaker, with this victory, Acadiana High School's Wreckin Rams have made the residents of their entire state proud. I enter into the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of these players and their coaches, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them for their achievement.

State Champions: Justin Green, Dvan Alexander, Kip Jacob*, Jeb Stefan, Louis Hollier, Jonathan Morvant, Javinas Faulk*, Daniel August*, DJ St. Julien, Desmond Sam, Terrence Sinegal, Tory Caudill, Brian Sinegal, Jordan Figaro*, John Dean, Darius Eaglin*, Chris White, Kyle Ramsey, Sam Boersma*, Jarred Evans, Chris Nguyen, Jeremy Griggs, Terrance Broussard, Brad Melancon, Austin Romein, Jeremy Fontenot*, Daniel Arabie, Ethan Piazza, Jordan Burt, Keevan Breau, Jarrid Durand, Dexter Bruno, Trent Noel, Fletcher Sanders*, Jordan Boykin*, Jordan Himel, Chase Southerland, Lora Parker, Whitney Duplechin, Tayla Davis, Josh Bourque, Coach Bob Fabre, Coach Scott McCullough, Coach Ted Davidson, Cody Labat, David Guidry, Cody Mandell, Coach Myles Casbon, Brett Polaski, Kalen Comeaux*, Anthony Johnson, Derek Richard*, Jeffrey Trahan, Kevin Elston, Marcus Sam*, Bobby Davidson, Drew Alleman, Dexter Hall*, Quincy Mouton, Chance Brossette, Donovan Gallien, Casey Latolais*, Hunter Thibodeaux, Kyle Hebert, Marcus Bazile, Lance Walker, Brandon Touchet*, Sheffield Taylor*, Jordan Magee, Aaron Guidry*, Sean McGovern, Matt Crooks, Hunter Hebert, Matt Boudreaux, Cherish Barton, Jared Prince, Dylan Terro, Robert Montgomery*, Taylor Wiggins, Mike Carvajal, Wilfred Journet*, Buck Smith*, Brady Hebert*, Chris Thibodeaux*, Spencer Trahan, Jesse Ledet, Jeremy Courville, Brent White, Brian White, Kynsi Sonnier, Ayriell Collins, Crystal Faulk, Coach Neal Lege, Coach Larry Breau, Coach Gary Fontenot, Coach Chris Mitchell, and Brandon Siner.

HONORING SPENCER COUNTY STUDENTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize six remarkable students from the Spencer County School System for their participation and high achievement in the National History Day Competition held last year at the University of Maryland.

National History Day is an innovative history education program for students in grades 6–12 who are interested in improving their historical knowledge in a fun and challenging environment. Each year, students choose a topic congruent with an annual theme, conduct research, then synthesize and analyze their findings into a paper, exhibit, documentary or performance. These projects are then evaluated at the local, state, and national levels. Finalists from each level advance to the next round of competition.

This 2006 theme was "Taking a Stand." Spencer County students, who placed first or second at the state contest held at the Ken-

tucky History Center in Frankfort last April, traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national contest at the University of Maryland, June 15–19, 2006. Together, they demonstrated great academic prowess, teamwork and sportsmanship before a regional audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

I would like to commend Maureen McCoy, Paige Walls, Joel Fickel, Ashleigh Steever, Chase Thomas and Breisa Baker for their accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the effort and support of their coaches. I am very proud to represent these students, educators and their families.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these students for their achievement and wish them continued success in their promising future years.

IN HONOR OF JULIUS STORTI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Julius Storti, upon his retirement from Transformer Engineering Corporation (TEC). His tenure at TEC spans sixty-three years, and is framed by integrity, innovation, excellence, friendship and unwavering loyalty and dedication.

Mr. Storti began working at TEC in the summer of 1943, while still in high school. His interest in electrical work was sparked while a student at Lincoln High School, where he assisted a teacher with an electrical course. At TEC, Mr. Storti became highly skilled in all areas, yet his primary work and expertise focused on hand & multiple winding, an area in which he is considered an expert.

A devoted family man, Mr. Storti was also surrounded by family and friends at TEC. He met his wife, Dorothy at TEC, and lovingly cared for her until her recent passing. Together they raised their daughter, Anne. He also worked alongside his childhood friend, George Kolsenicky, and his brother-in-law, the late Paul Yachanin. Mr. Storti's kind and humble nature consistently shone through at TEC, and his professional integrity and strong work ethic never wavered. Although a talented and dedicated employee, the center of Mr. Storti's life continues to be his family and close friends.

Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Mr. Julius Storti, whose sixty-three year tenure at Transformer Engineering Corporation is defined by kindness, patience, expertise and willingness to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. Mr. Storti created bonds of friendship at TEC that will never be broken, and he will be deeply missed by all. I wish Mr. Storti and his family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as he journeys onward from here.

HONORING G. MARTIN "MARTY" WAGNER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. G. Martin "Marty" Wagner for over 31 years of dedicated service to the Federal government.

Through Mr. Wagner's current role as Deputy Commissioner of Federal Acquisition Services, and previously as Acting Commissioner and Acting Deputy Commissioner, he oversaw the acquisition of more than \$50 billion of goods and services for various federal agencies. He managed a workforce of more than 4,000 associates who helped the Federal government find, buy and manage all federal non-real estate services.

Mr. Wagner led initiatives that set the tone and direction for major changes in government-wide management. He has played a key role in promoting electronic government, in using commercial contracts and approaches, and in putting performance measures into practice. Such initiatives include the creation of FirstGov, the Government's Internet portal; and FedbizOpps, the gateway for all federal procurements.

During Mr. Wagner's career he has been honored for his good work and accomplishments as a premier civil servant. Mr. Wagner received the Meritorious Presidential Rank for his career achievements as well as his efforts in leading the administration's effort to reinvent the federal management process. He also received the Distinguished Presidential Rank for his work to improve federal management, specifically the implementation of a new management framework to reflect modern management principles and effective uses of technology. Finally, Mr. Wagner received the General Services Administration's "Giraffe Award" for "sticking his neck out" and taking risks to improve various GSA programs. These recognitions illustrate the kind of results-oriented federal employee he is.

Whether Mr. Wagner was instituting the massive modernization of the federal telecommunications system, establishing improved customer and employee management systems, or taking the simple, personal step of adding Brail to his business cards, Mr. Wagner has always worked to ensure that everyone had improved access to the federal government.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Wagner on all of his achievements. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Marty for his past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join with my colleagues this week in support of the "Hire a Veteran Week" resolution.

Scripture tells us, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Few things could better characterize the conduct of so many of our Nation's veterans.

The men and women who have worn the uniform of our country have been willing to place themselves in harm's way on our behalf. They have offered to lay down their lives for us. They have shown us the greatest love.

Not only have our veterans demonstrated the greatest love to us, they also have demonstrated a quality of character that should inspire us all.

How can we show them the same kind of commitment? By treating current service personnel well on the battlefield, making sure they have the equipment needed to get the job done well. We must make every benefit of technology and the full wealth of our Nation available to our military to ensure our soldiers, sailors, air personnel and Marines have what they need to do their jobs.

We need to treat them well when they return: We need to keep faith in providing them with the benefits they need to show our gratitude for their sacrifice.

And we need to treat those they love well: We need to care for the families of the fallen, their widows and orphaned children.

The measure before us "encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon employers, labor organizations, veterans' service organizations, and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies . . . to lend their support to increase employment of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States."

The ability of our veterans to contribute is not limited to their time in uniform. They are also men and women with specialized skills and bring exceptional training to the marketplace. Hiring a veteran is a sound economic investment.

Madam Speaker, that's something all Americans can support, and I look forward to voting for H. Con. Resolution 5, "expressing support for the designation and goals of 'Hire a Veteran Week' and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals," when it comes before the House.

CONGRATULATING BARRY
PATRICK RODGERS, BS, M.ED.

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barry Rodgers on his appointment as principal of Northside College Preparatory High School in Chicago. The Northside school council voted unanimously to name Mr. Rodgers to a 4-year term as principal beginning on July 1, 2007, and they chose an outstanding successor to James Lalley, who is retiring on June 30, 2007.

Mr. Rodgers received his B.S. in zoology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990. He then went on to graduate from National Louis University, in 1999, with a master's degree in education specializing in curriculum and instruction, and he has continued

his education with a certificate in educational leadership from DePaul University in 2005.

Throughout his career, Mr. Rodgers has been an educator and a leader in a variety of venues. He began his career at Mather High School teaching biology and chemistry. He went on to become the department chairman at Mather High. He then joined the Northside science department, working his way up to department chairman there as well. Currently, Mr. Rodgers is the LAUNCH principal at Westinghouse Career Academy in Chicago assisting in the day-to-day operations of the school.

Mr. Rodgers has gone above and beyond in serving the interests of the students wherever he has taught. He founded the swim team at Northside High School, led the Curriculum Team, was a teacher-mentor for the Golden Teachers program, coordinated staff development opportunities for five area schools, and was a member of the leadership team at both Northside High and Westinghouse Academy.

In addition to coaching the swim team at Northside, he is also affiliated with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum development, the National Science Teachers Association, the Friends of the Chicago River, the National School Reform Faculty, the North River Commission, the American Chemical Society, and National Public Radio.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Barry Rodgers on his appointment as Northside College Preparatory High School's new principal, and I thank him for his many outstanding contributions in educating the young people of the Fifth District of Illinois. His efforts have had a profound impact on the lives of his friends, family, and countless other individuals. I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on this new journey, and continued happiness in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 58 in honor of Muhammad Ali—born Cassius Marcellus Clay, on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Internationally known as the "greatest of all time," he single-handedly revolutionized the sport of boxing.

Born on this day in 1942 in Louisville, KY, by the age of 18, Clay had already become the 1960 light-heavyweight Olympic Gold Medalist. It was then that he evolved into a professional fighter, and by 1963, he had won all 19 of his first professional fights. The following year, 1964, Clay won the world heavyweight title against Sonny Liston. Two days later, he announced his acceptance of the teachings of the Nation of Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali shortly after.

Ali defended his championship title nine times between 1965 and 1967, more than most heavyweight fighters in such a short period. Citing his Islamic faith, Ali refused to serve in the U.S. military during the war in Vietnam. As a result, his title was revoked, his fighting license was suspended, and he was sentenced to 5 years in prison for draft evasion. He was barred from fighting from March

22, 1967 to October 26, 1970, which many feel were his peak years. Finally, in 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously reversed Ali's conviction, and his boxing privileges were restored.

Ali quickly set about regaining the heavyweight title, which was now held by the indomitable Joe Frazier. In the first of three bouts with Frazier, Ali lost what was dubbed "the fight of the century." In a rematch with Frazier in 1974, Ali was victorious in redeeming his championship title. In October of that same year, the fight considered to be his most anticipated and promoted of his career, was the "rumble in the jungle" against a younger and vibrant George Foreman. The fight took place in Kinshasa, Zaire, and there were many who doubted that Ali would emerge the victor. In this fight, Ali introduced what he called the "rope-a-dope," which he used to tire Foreman and eventually sustain his position as the No. 1 heavyweight champion of the world.

In 1975, his third and final bout with Joe Frazier, labeled the "the thriller in Manila" by Ali, proved to be one of the toughest and greatest fights of his career. Ali was victorious once more. Sadly, in 1978, Ali lost the title to Leon Spinks. That same year, in a rematch with Spinks, Ali won the championship title for the third time. In his final fight, "the drama in Bahamas," against Trevor Berbick in 1981, his loss signaled the decline of the fighter's reign, and on December 12, 1981, Muhammad Ali said goodbye to boxing at the age of 39. There were also reports of his deteriorating health, and in 1982, the world knew that he was suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Ali remains a beloved and active public figure. He has enjoyed countless honors, such as becoming No. 13 of the Forbes Celebrity 100, receiving the Spirit of America Award which named him the most recognized American in the world, named "Kentucky Athlete of the Century," and lighting the flame at the 1996 Summer Olympics. In 2005, Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the \$60 million Muhammad Ali Center was opened in his honor in Louisville, KY. He is a United Nations Messenger of Peace and the first sportsman to receive an Otto Hahn Peace Medal. He is also the namesake of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act.

More than a superior in the boxing world, Ali took a stand against injustice. He was a champion of the civil rights movement, and an involved activist who used his power and fame to push noble social change. His refusal to fight in a war that he didn't believe in made a statement to not only the African-American community, but to the world. Ali sacrificed boxing, the one thing he loved the most, to stand up for that which he believed. His practice of Islam and civil disobedience propelled him to larger than life status. Muhammad Ali has inspired millions throughout the world. He has given people hope and proved that anyone can overcome insurmountable odds. He has given people courage and shown us all that with spirit and determination, a simple person can make a difference. There will never be another Muhammad Ali.

So Madam Speaker, it is with great distinction that I stand here today to wish the champ, the living legend, "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali, a happy birthday.

HONORING LORRAINE C. MILLER,
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lorraine C. Miller of Fort Worth, Texas on her appointment as Clerk of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 30, 2007.

As Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Miller's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the Page Board, congressional travel reports and disclosure forms, the voting system, and oversight of the legislative operation of the House floor. She has worked at the highest levels of government, which have contributed to her leadership abilities and knowledge of management. The role of the Clerk is demanding and requires someone with great intellect. Mrs. Miller will bring strength and diversity to the Office of the Clerk as the first African-American woman to hold this top House position.

Mrs. Lorraine Miller first worked in the House for Representatives for U.S. Congressman Jim Wright (D-Fort Worth) when he was Majority Leader. She moved on to work for then-Speaker Tom Foley (D-Washington), U.S. Congressman JOHN LEWIS (D-Georgia), and finally for current Speaker NANCY PELOSI. Mrs. Miller also worked as Deputy Assistant to the President of Legislative Affairs for the House of Representatives during the Clinton Administration. She additionally held positions at the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mrs. Lorraine C. Miller for decades of hard work and selfless dedication. I want to join her friends and family, both in Fort Worth and in Washington, in congratulating her on this prestigious milestone. She has been an inspiration and role model to many, and I am proud to represent her in Congress and look forward to working with her.

INTRODUCTION OF LTC JAMES
MEGELLAS MEDAL OF HONOR
BILL

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I am reintroducing legislation to honor a true American hero by awarding him the Medal of Honor. Sixty-two years ago this past Sunday, on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, then Lt. James Megellas led his platoon of the 82nd Airborne Division on a surprise and devastating attack on a much larger advancing German force, killing and capturing a large number of the enemy and causing others to flee. In an act of fearless courage, Lt. Megellas single-handedly destroyed an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades. He then led the charge of his men and seized Herresbach, Belgium, during this fierce action of the Battle of the Bulge. Due to his aggressive, fearless and superior leadership, Lt. James Megellas inspired his men to excel.

After serving four years as a rifle platoon leader during World War II, including many combat jumps into Italy and Holland, James Megellas left the active Army and served for 16 years in the Army Reserve. He retired after 20 years of service as a lieutenant colonel.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and he is credited with being the 82nd Airborne Division's most decorated officer. During World War II, General James Gavin selected one 82nd officer—Lt. James Megellas—to receive the Military Order of Wilhelm Orange Lanyard from the Dutch Minister of War on behalf of his division.

To this day, James Megellas continues to inspire. In February 2006, 61 years after that momentous battle, James "Maggie" Megellas set foot on a battlefield with fellow 82nd Airborne Division soldiers, this time in a current theater of war—Afghanistan. James Megellas was impressed with what he saw of the paratroopers and their work. He listened to their stories of the past year of deployment and shared with them his own experiences during World War II. "Maggie" continues to inspire by speaking to groups across the country about his experiences and is planning to observe his 90th birthday in Iraq this March with the 82nd Airborne troops.

I urge my colleagues to recognize James "Maggie" Megellas by supporting this bill to authorize and request the President to award him the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge. As time goes by, true heroes should not be forgotten, so please join me in honoring this outstanding American hero.

HONORING COLONEL PAUL M.
KELLY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American hero. Colonel Paul Kelly, of Stafford, Virginia, and a former member of the South Carolina Army National Guard, died in Baghdad when the Black Hawk helicopter he was in crashed.

Colonel Kelly served as a South Carolina guardsmen from April 1986 until June 2001. During his tenure, he held key leadership and staff positions within the aviation program rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Colonel Kelly later transferred to the Virginia Army National Guard, with which he was serving at the time of his death. To date Col. Kelly is the most senior officer to die in the Iraqi theater of war. He was a mentor to many coming up through the ranks of military service.

Colonel Kelly would have celebrated his 46th birthday today. According to the Dayton Daily News, Colonel Kelly was nicknamed "the Senator" because he was always shaking soldier's hands, no matter their rank.

Colonel Kelly is survived by his loving wife Maria, his two sons, Paul and John, his parents, John and Mary Rose, and his five siblings. Colonel Kelly honorably served America and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with them all.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lend my support for House Concurrent Resolution 5—supporting the designation of "Hire a Veteran Week."

In each and every generation, a class of men and women stand out amongst their peers for their courage, their dedication and their patriotism. They have willfully defended our Nation and our principles when they were threatened, all the while reminding us about what is good about our Nation through their compassion and their citizenship. Although they have accomplished great things while in uniform, I support this measure not for what they have done to protect our past, but for what they are capable of doing to build our future. Our veterans have gained the kind of working skills and on-the-job training that is beyond comparison. They possess the qualities that any employer would find desirable: dedication, commitment and honor. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 5 and help bring attention to this worthy endeavor.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT
GENERAL WARREN D. JOHNSON

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, LTG Warren D. Johnson of Winnetka passed away on January 23, 2007, leaving behind a legacy of personal contributions to his family, colleagues, and the nation.

General Johnson was born in 1922, in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He entered military service in April 1942 and graduated from officer candidate school with a commission as second lieutenant in November 1942. He was first assigned to advanced training for the B-17 and then sent to Tokyo, Japan where he served from December 1946 until June 1949 as a personnel officer in the Pacific Air Command and the Far East Air Forces.

Johnson was next assigned as a B-36 crew member with the 11th Bombardment Wing of Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. There he began his long association with Strategic Air Command. At Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas from May 1955 to July 1959 he served as a B-47 aircraft commander and director of operations for the 70th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.

General Johnson was assigned as chief of transportation at Torrejon Air Base, Spain and in January 1962, became commander of the SAC base at Sidi Slimane, Morocco.

In 1963, he became deputy director of Eighth Air Force Headquarters at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts. In 1966, Johnson became commander of the 380th Strategic

Aerospace Wing, SAC and in 1967 was given the responsibility for SAC wings.

In September 1969, he assumed the dual assignment of commander, U.S. Forces, Azores, and commander, 1605th Air Base Wing, Lajes Field, Azores.

In June 1971, General Johnson became deputy chief of staff for personnel at Strategic Air Command Headquarters and later became chief of staff.

He joined the Defense Nuclear Agency in May 1973 as deputy director for operations and administration, and in October 1973 was appointed as the director. General Johnson also served as a member of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

General Johnson received numerous military decorations and awards. He was quadruplerated as pilot, navigator, bombardier and radar operator, and had more than 17,000 hours of flying time in fighters and bombers.

Retiring from the United States Air Force in 1977, Don Johnson joined Baxter International as a corporate officer. His activities were varied ranging from facility planning, telecommunications, and aviation to Baxter's operations in South Africa, finally recommending divestment of the company's interest in that country. General Johnson chaired Baxter's Crisis Management Team before retiring in 1990.

On a personal note, it was to my great pleasure and honor that "The General," as we called him, served on my Service Academy Select Screening Board to make recommendations for nominations for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He took delight in the many fine young people that our district produced and their sincere desire to serve our country.

General Johnson was a giant among men, having served in three wars, flying fighters and bombers, going from prop planes to the Strategic Air Command, and serving as Director of the Defense Nuclear Agency. He continued making contributions in civilian life by sharing his leadership and understanding of the world. We will never comprehend the influence and inspiration that General Johnson provided to those who had the opportunity to make his acquaintance. To his wife Judy and his four surviving children, I extend my deep condolences. To General Don Johnson's many friends at the North Shore Senior Center, it was our pleasure to know such a fine individual and family man who will be missed by all.

TRIBUTE TO ROCCO J. SOCCIO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rocco J. Soccio of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, who passed away Saturday, December 16, 2006, at the age of 71 years. This distinguished man is survived by a wife of almost 50 years, Barbara Kaley Soccio, whom he married in 1957 and had three children, Jan, John and Vincent.

Lewistown is lucky to have had such a devoted citizen to the community such as Rocco, or "Rocky", as everyone knew him. For 30

years, he owned and operated the Parkway Service Store and was a partner in the operation of Riverside Wholesale for 13 years. He was also a manager and salesman for L&G Athletic Retail Sports Store. But those are just his contributions to the business community.

Rocky Soccio also spent time as an educator and coach at Kishacoquillas High School. He taught history and driver's education, and served as the wrestling coach and athletic director at the high school. The young lives he contributed to were many and did not go unnoticed. As recognition of his achievements, in 1965, Rocky was named the winner of Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Public Teacher Award.

Rocky Soccio also had a strong hand in the local government. He served on the Blue Cross Consumer Advisory Board for 34 years and also spent six years as a board member on the Mifflin County Housing Authority. Rocky became chairman of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown as well as the Mifflin County Republican Party. He was a former auditor for the Mifflin County Board of Elections, and also found time to belong to the Knights of Columbus, the Lewistown Jaycees, the Kiwanis, and the Lions Club.

To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Rocco J. Soccio was involved in would be nearly impossible. His involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable. Rocky Soccio selflessly dedicated himself to the Lewistown area, and we are all very grateful for his effort toward positive enrichment of the community, as he has certainly deserved this distinguished honor.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ANTONIO AND IDA FRISSORA

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to offer my best wishes to my aunt and uncle who recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Antonio and Ida Frissora first met after Ida moved to Columbus, Ohio from Niagara Falls in 1955. They were married on January 26, 1957 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and have now spent 50 years together.

Antonio and Ida have been wonderful parents to Christina, Tony and his wife, Caroline, and Don and his wife, Robin. They are the proud grandparents of eight.

As loving parents and grandparents, they continue to set a wonderful example for others to follow. I join with their family and many friends in wishing Antonio and Ida all the best on this joyous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND JOHN "JACK" WEAN, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Raymond John "Jack"

Wean, Jr., Chairman of The John Wean Foundation in Warren, OH. The John Wean Foundation was established in 1949 by Raymond John Wean, Sr., an inventive and enterprising industrialist, who was devoted to improving the quality of life and education in the Mahoning Valley. The John Wean Foundation would serve the communities in which he had achieved enormous success.

A native of Warren, OH, Jack was the son of Raymond J. Wean, Sr., who founded Wean Engineering Company in 1929. After graduating from Yale University, Mr. Wean served as a Naval Officer in the South Pacific during World War II. In 1946, he went to work for his father's business in Warren at a time when the steel and aluminum industries were booming.

Jack started in an executive position and was elected president and chief executive in 1966. He became chairman in 1979. Jack retired in 1992, but continued to chair The Foundation. He traveled extensively and was an avid sport fisherman.

Jack Wean was married to the former Adelaide McCracken and they have three sons and a daughter. They also have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Since 1949, The John Wean Foundation has raised over \$85 million dollars. It was through Jack's generosity that a broad range of nonprofit organizations would benefit. I would like to remember Raymond John "Jack" Wean, Jr., for his sense of obligation and commitment to the residents here in the Mahoning Valley.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SKATING MONTH

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Skating Month. This event has run throughout the month of January 2007, sponsored by the United States Figure Skating Association. It highlights contributions of U.S. figure skaters such as the wonderful competitors who participated in this month's U.S. Figure Skating Championships held in Spokane, WA, from January 21 through January 28, 2007.

Recently, from November 28 through December 2, 2006, my home city of Cleveland, OH, hosted the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships. This event featured young skaters from across the country. Significantly, efforts of the Cleveland Sports Commission, the Greater Cleveland Council of Figure Skating Clubs, and the United States Figure Skating Association resulted in an economic impact of over \$1 million in Cleveland, OH.

In January of 2009, Cleveland, OH, will again host the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. This will be Cleveland's fourth time hosting the senior championships, previously held in the city in 2000, 1964, and 1940. This competition is one of the most significant events that a city can host. The 2000 championships had an economic impact in Cleveland calculated by the Cleveland Sports Commission at \$19.5 million.

Figure skating is not only a wonderful sport to watch but is an activity that can be enjoyed by people throughout their lives. The sport is

largely run by volunteers who spend countless hours in support of young people and their development. Furthermore, organizations such as Friends of Minority Figure Skating in Cleveland, OH, and the Kids on Ice Program of Fort Dupont Ice Arena in Washington, DC, create opportunities for young people who would not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the sport.

At the conclusion of this National Skating Month, I commend parents, coaches, skating clubs, service organizations, and skaters, both youth and adult. Their hard work and sportsmanship is well worth recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LUNG
CANCER CIRCLE OF HOPE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the Lung Cancer Circle of Hope's President Susan Levin on her efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of radon. Radon, a radioactive gas that accumulates inside buildings, is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States behind cigarette smoke. Yet, many Americans have never even considered testing their homes for dangerous amounts of radon.

This January, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, has declared National Radon Action Month, the Lung Cancer Circle of Hope rightly urged families across New Jersey to test their homes for radon. This poisonous gas can enter homes through a variety of ways and then collect indoors. The result can be a health threat that you cannot see, smell, or taste.

Every year, over 160,000 Americans die from lung cancer and the EPA estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 of those devastating losses. Many of those radon-induced cancers could have been prevented had more homes and offices been tested for radon. Once again, I applaud Susan and her organization for their aggressive public education campaign to spread the word about radon to New Jersey families.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues two very important statements affirming the historical significance of the Holocaust by our new Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, at the U.N. in New York.

The Secretary-General's first statement on January 17 stresses the uniqueness and undeniability of the Holocaust as a tragic historical event, and reaffirms the United Nations' commitment to observe the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust annually on January 27. Secretary-General Ban's strong statement demonstrates that he is com-

mitted to fulfill Kofi Annan's legacy as the first Secretary-General who dedicated himself to moving the United Nations past its sad and crippling legacy of anti-Semitism.

The second statement, made on January 26, welcomes the adoption of a U.N. resolution refuting the putrid attempt by the Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to sow discord and hatred in the international community by attempting to deny the historical reality of Hitler's systematic slaughter of millions of Jews. Secretary Ban's statement demonstrates strong leadership in facing down the Iranian dictator by declaring the denial of historical events to be "unacceptable."

The new Secretary-General deserves our strong support as he moves forward in his effort to confront the anti-Semitic climate that pollutes the United Nations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN MESSAGE FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS MEMORIAL DAY, STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF REASSERTING COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Following is the text of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's message for the second observance of the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, to be observed on 27 January:

The Holocaust was a unique and undeniable tragedy. Decades later, the systematic murder of millions of Jews and others retains its power to shock. The ability of the Nazis to command a following, despite their utter depravity, still strikes fear. And above all, the pain remains: for ageing survivors, and for all of us as a human family that witnessed a descent into barbarism.

The work of remembrance pays tribute to those who perished. But it also plays a vital role in our efforts to stem the tide of human cruelty. It keeps us vigilant for new outbreaks of anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. And it is an essential response to those misguided individuals who claim that the Holocaust never happened, or has been exaggerated.

The International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is thus a day on which we must reassert our commitment to human rights. That cause was brutally desecrated at Auschwitz, and by genocides and atrocities since.

We must also go beyond remembrance, and make sure that new generations know this history. We must apply the lessons of the Holocaust to today's world. And we must do our utmost so that all peoples must enjoy the protections and rights for which the United Nations stands.

On this International Day, I reiterate my strong commitment to that mission, and call on all to join in our common quest for human dignity.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON HOLOCAUST DENIAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The Secretary-General welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly today of a resolution unequivocally condemning any denial of the Holocaust.

This reflects the prevailing view of the international community. The Secretary-General reiterates his conviction that the denial of historical facts such as the Holocaust is unacceptable. He expresses his strong desire to see this fundamental principle respected both in rhetoric and in practice.

IN HONOR OF VICTOR J. FERLISE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Victor J. Ferlise, the deputy to the commanding general at the Fort Monmouth Army Garrison in New Jersey. It is with great pride and admiration that I honor him today for his long standing commitment to Fort Monmouth and the State of New Jersey for the past 36 years.

Throughout my 18 years in Congress, I have worked closely with Vic on issues pertaining to the Fort Monmouth community. He has always been a good friend and has worked tirelessly to provide life-saving equipment and technology for American soldiers.

Vic began his career in government service at Fort Monmouth in 1971. He served as the chief counsel of the Legal Office at Fort Monmouth before earning the title of deputy to the commanding general. Currently, Vic continues to serve as deputy, overseeing five major business units of the Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command at Fort Monmouth.

He is responsible for the Command Legal Office and the Homeland Security Special Projects Office, and is a member of the New Jersey Research and Development Council. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Monmouth Medical Center and the First Atlantic Federal Credit Union.

Furthermore, Vic has been recognized numerous times for his outstanding contributions to State and Federal Government. His awards include several civilian awards and decorations, including the Distinguished and Meritorious Presidential Rank Awards and the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award. In 2006, he was also the recipient of the highest civilian honor at the Department of Defense, the Distinguished Civilian Service Award. These accolades only serve as further evidence of his unwavering dedication to public service.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Victor J. Ferlise for his contributions to our country, the State of New Jersey and the Fort Monmouth community. I wish him luck in his future endeavors and congratulate him on 36 years of outstanding service.

HONORING THE 30 YEAR SERVICE
OF BRENDA WRIGHT TO THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Brenda Wright, a long-time House Armed Services Committee Employee, on her retirement after 30 years of exemplary and professional service.

Throughout her tenure on the committee, Ms. Wright has been a selfless and dedicated employee and public servant. After serving for six years at the Interstate Commerce Commission, Brenda joined the House Armed Services Committee on February 14, 1977. Initially,

she provided administrative support for the Sea Power subcommittee chaired by Charles E. Bennett and was promoted to her current position as Professional Staff Member on the full committee in 1988.

During the past 30 years, Ms. Wright has served seven committee chairmen, including myself, and has witnessed many pivotal moments in U.S. Congressional and military history. The House Armed Services Committee has been fortunate to benefit from the contributions of those who, like Brenda, not only have a great deal of experience, but who also appreciate and understand the history and the workings of this committee. Brenda joined the Congressional community at a time when our military faced the challenges of the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and since then, her efforts on behalf of our men and women in uniform have been consistent and unwavering. Recently, she recalled that one of the highlights of her tenure was the opportunity to personally witness the commissioning of the USS Cincinnati Los Angeles-class submarine and to stand among the service members who serve our nation so capably.

Madam Speaker, public perception of Congress frequently seems to be based on the personalities and characters of a few powerful figures. However, as one who shares Brenda's long tenure on the Hill, I know that Congress relies on the dedicated staff who steadfastly complete their work in the shadow of the dome and in the shadow of the limelight. Brenda Wright has gained a well-earned reputation as a dependable, loyal, and capable staff member whose absence will be felt by all who have had the privilege of working with her.

On behalf of all of the members of the House Armed Services Committee and her colleagues on the HASC staff, I congratulate Brenda on her upcoming retirement and thank her for her exemplary public service. With deep appreciation, we extend sincere best wishes to Brenda, her sons Robert and Lavan and their families for continued health and happiness.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST
BRANDON L. STOUT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist Brandon L. Stout, who died on January 22, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Stout, who was 23 years old, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He was assigned to the 46th Military Police Company, 210th Military Police Battalion, Army National Guard, Kingsford, Michigan.

Brandon was raised in Kent City, Michigan. He met his future wife Audrey while attending Great Lakes Christian College from August, 2002 to May, 2003. They married in May of 2005.

Brandon's faith was an important part of his life, and he hoped to pursue a vocation in ministry. He felt called to serve his country and joined the Army National Guard in June 2003.

In 2005 he was deployed to Louisiana for nearly two months as part of the Hurricane Katrina response. Brandon trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey beginning in July 2006 and was deployed to Baghdad on October 1, 2006. He earned his promotion to Specialist in December of 2006. Brandon was looking forward to a scheduled two-week leave with his wife, family and friends.

Brandon is survived by his wife; his mother and step-father, Tracy and Jeff Anderson; his father and step-mother, Bill and Tammy Stout; and his brother, Adam. His extended family includes Andrew, Elizabeth, Stephanie and Christine Anderson; Stephanie Stout and Callie McGee; Gary and Laurie Hinken; Dusty and Lisa VanderMeer; and Marianne and Lindsey Hinken.

Specialist Stout's family and friends consider him a role model and a hero. He was dedicated to serving his country, was steadfast in his faith and deeply loved his wife and family. I extend my prayers and condolences to his family and friends and hope that they find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
JONATHAN KINGMAN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave young soldier, and one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Jonathan Kingman of Ohio.

Sergeant Kingman was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, and graduated from Mapleton High School, where he sang in the school choir, played basketball, and was a member of the track team.

Jonathan Kingman died on January 20, 2007, in Iraq, while serving his second tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Age 21, he is survived by loving family, including his wife, children and parents.

In reading of Jonathan's life and speaking with his family members, Madam Speaker, I was touched by the dramatic impact this young man had on the lives of so many.

Like others before him, from farms, fields, and small towns across our land, Jonathan Kingman stood up and volunteered to serve his country.

He fought to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, his community, his state, and his nation.

For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Jonathan will be missed. But the strength of his character, and the courage he demonstrated through his service, will live on.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMFORT
WOMEN RESOLUTION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the over 200,000 "comfort

women" in Asia who suffered unimaginable dehumanization by the Japanese Imperial Army during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

These women, whose experiences were unprecedented in cruelty and were officially commissioned by the Government of Japan, endured gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide—and to this date, they have still not received justice from this tragedy.

Their hope is a modest one: That the government of Japan acknowledges, apologizes and accepts full historical responsibility for this crime.

Today, I am introducing a resolution which calls on Japan to formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy which the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II. Not only should Japan's Prime Minister issue a public apology, Japan must take responsibility unequivocally.

Some question whether this resolution is necessary and warn that it could affect our nation's strong friendship and alliance with Japan. Some even argue that Japan has already apologized, and this resolution fails to recognize that. It is true that Japan's previous Prime Ministers have issued statements related to comfort women. However, it is clear that these statements are not viewed by the government of Japan with unequivocal respect, and the comfort women themselves do not consider them formal apologies. Japan has equivocated in its stance on this issue, which is made clear in their recent attempts to alter previous public statements and their school textbooks.

For example, in 1993, Japan's then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued an encouraging statement regarding Japan's comfort women, which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal. Today, some members of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party strive to review and even possibly rescind Secretary Kono's statement.

Further, the Japanese government continues to seek to downplay the comfort women system in its textbooks. We must ask ourselves, if Japan has truly come to terms with its past in acknowledging what its Imperial Army forced upon these women, why are they suppressing the knowledge of this through education? Education on this tragedy is important to ensure that future violence against women, especially in conflicts, should not be tolerated or repeated. Textbook suppression, coupled with efforts to revise Secretary Kono's 1993 statement, is disheartening and indicates that Japan wavers in its apology to these women.

I want to make it clear that I recognize and value the importance of our strong friendship with Japan. I appreciate Japan's efforts to provide monetary compensation to surviving comfort women through the Asia Women's Fund, a government-initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the comfort women. The Asia Women's Fund is to be disbanded on March 31, 2007, and while I agree that the Asia Women's Fund was important, the reality is that the majority of surviving

comfort women refused to accept these funds, and that without an unambiguous and unequivocal apology from the government of Japan, the money was not significant to them.

The purpose of this resolution is not to bash or humiliate Japan. This is about achieving justice for the few remaining women who survived this atrocity. We must recognize this grave human rights violation, which has remained unknown for so many years.

Further, this resolution is intended to encourage and provide for reconciliation, as the U.S. Congress did when it passed H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which was a formal apology made to U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly put into internment camps during World War II. As someone who was put into an internment camp at a young age, I know firsthand that we must not be ignorant of the past, and that reconciliation through government actions is long lasting.

I would be remiss if I failed to recognize the efforts that my good friend and former colleague Lane Evans made to push this issue forward in Congress. I am proud to be carrying the torch that Lane passed on, and commend him for the hope he has instilled in the comfort women and the communities that have worked so hard on their behalf by bringing this issue to Congress.

Madam Speaker, to put it frankly, the few surviving comfort women in the world who live with this burden are dying. We must help them achieve some peace of mind by moving this resolution forward. For the women who survived this brutality, this resolution demonstrates that our nation supports them and hears their voices calling for justice.

**RECOGNIZING GINNY GANO FOR
HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO
OHIO'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a valued member of my staff, who is retiring after 37 years of working on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's 7th Congressional District. Virginia Gano, known by most everyone as "Ginny," is retiring this week from her post as the scheduler and executive assistant to me and the two previous members who held this seat.

A native of Springfield, Ginny started working for former Congressman Clarence "Bud" Brown, Jr. after graduating from Dennison University and the Katharine Gibbs School. When Bud decided to run for governor in Ohio, former Senator Mike DeWine won the seat, and Ginny stayed on to work for him.

When I came here in 1991, Ginny said that she would give me her resume, and I told her, "Ginny, I know that when you win the 7th congressional district, you win Ginny, too. You come with the office. You don't need a resume." That began not only a wonderful working relationship, but a warm friendship, too.

Ginny is one of the kindest and most outgoing people that you'll ever come across. She knows the people who keep the Capitol complex running—from the personnel who run

the supply offices and maintenance shops to the staff members who work on the House floor and in the Speaker's Office. And she treats each and every one of them in a kind and courteous manner.

As everyone who works on Capitol Hill knows, an efficient scheduler is someone who can make or break an office. And Ginny, in her own way, has made this office work.

When a constituent would call the office to schedule a meeting or a tour, she always made the extra effort to be sure that their visit to Washington, D.C. was special. She's so popular giving tours, that she's now taking the grandchildren of some of the first people she gave tours to years ago through the Capitol.

And, if you ever had a question about how to cut through the "bureaucratic red tape," Ginny could find the answer or a way to get something done. It is those qualities that have made her invaluable to our office over the years.

Beyond her official responsibilities, Ginny has been the "den mother" for scores of staffers over the years. If you were moving to Washington, D.C. for your first job and were looking for a place to live, you called Ginny. If you were not feeling well or if you needed a ride to the hospital, you would go see Ginny. This includes the little, but meaningful things, too. For example, if someone was having a birthday in the office and you were looking for a card to have everyone sign, you would go ask Ginny. Those are just a few of the examples of what she has done for the young people who have worked in the office.

Ginny Gano has been the heart of this office and in my district for years, and she will be missed. So today, on behalf of my wife, Carolyn, and my current and former staff, I want to thank her for her service, but most of all for her friendship over the years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Ginny Gano on her retirement from federal service as the "first sergeant" of Ohio's 7th Congressional District.

**CELEBRATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE 105TH AIRLIFT
SQUADRON OF THE 118TH AIR-
LIFT WING**

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 85th anniversary of the 105th squadron of the 118th Airlift Wing in our Tennessee Air National Guard. The roots of this storied squadron reach as far back as World War I, and their brave service continues today in military operations around the world.

The unit received federal recognition in 1921 and was assigned to the U.S. Army's 30th "Old Hickory" Division. The unit adopted the name dubbing themselves the "Old Hickory Squadron" and their insignia still bears the image of Old Hickory himself, Andrew Jackson, riding on horseback.

At the onset of World War II, the unit mobilized for this global conflict. Members of the 105th Squadron made history around the world on observation missions, antisubmarine patrols, reconnaissance, and bombardment. The men of the 105th flew over 100 missions

in the Pacific Campaign. They attacked Axis targets around the world in planes like the B-10 Bomber, the Vega Ventura B-34, and the B-25 Mitchel Bomber.

In 1961, the wing converted to the airlift mission that it accomplishes with distinction to this day. Beginning with the C-97G Stratofreighter, moving to the C-124C Globemaster II and finally to the C-130 Hercules, the 118th Military Airlift Wing carried out their critical mission from Panama to Iraq. They provided support for the Berlin Airlift and Cuban Missile crises, national and state civil disturbances, the Vietnam Conflict, Red Flag, Brave Shield, Volant Oak and Coronet Oak, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm. In 1990, the Wing mobilized 462 personnel during 21 deployments in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, logging a record 7,239 flying hours.

After September 11, 2001, over one third of the 118th air wing was activated for a year or more helping patrol our skies in Operation Noble Eagle before deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2003, the 118th deployed ten C-130's and over 320 personnel to the Middle East in direct support of combat operations in Iraq. The members of the 118th refused to let living in tents in the desert prevent them from establishing a bare base in support of the largest contingent of C-130's ever based in a combat environment, with over 46 C-130's located at a single base.

Madam Speaker, the world is safer because of the men and women of the 118th. The nation owes them our thanks on their 85th anniversary. These brave Americans are members of our community both in and out of uniform. Nashville is a better place for having the 118th Air Wing, and I am proud to represent them.

**A TRIBUTE TO JOHN T.
CAULFIELD, ESQ. UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. John Thomas Caulfield for over 25 years of outstanding service to the Congress and over 30 years of public service.

Mr. Caulfield has been known as a "lawyer's lawyer" on Capitol Hill and has provided all manner of counseling to the Congress including as a legal strategist and accomplished expert on the legislative process as the General Counsel to the Capitol Police Board, the Chief of Police and the U.S. Capitol Police for the past 20 years.

His contributions on behalf of the men and women of the Capitol Police and the entire Congress are truly immeasurable. His unique insights on Congressional operations and the institutional functions render him one of the few who, by direct experience, understand the complex and sometimes arcane interplay between and among the Houses of Congress and congressional entities.

His dedication to the protection of the legal institutional interests of the federal legislative branch has led to him being recognized nationally and even internationally as a First Amendment expert. He has been called upon

to provide legal advice to the Parliaments of both Australia and Canada as well as the City of New York relative to the development and implementation of free expression demonstration, regulatory system balancing, and fundamental First Amendment rights of free speech, with appropriate governmental limitations. His profound grasp of these sometimes nuanced and competing constitutional and legal interests is demonstrated almost daily as he provides advice and counsel to the Capitol Police Board and the Capitol Police.

A native of Buffalo, New York, John has always maintained his "down-to-earth" roots as a person of integrity, humility, trustworthiness and truthfulness with a "what you see is what you get" approach to all endeavors. However, it is his keen legal intellect and overwhelming ethic for hard work combined with a Runyonesque, street-wise toughness that allowed him to remain calm during the many emergencies and critical situations that he was asked to handle on behalf of the Congress.

An accomplished student-athlete in high school and college, he has been recognized for academic and athletic honors including being inducted into the Canisius High School Hall of Fame as well as academic and athletic honors at John Carroll University. When asked, John has credited his Jesuit education and athletic participation as the cornerstone of his intellectual curiosity, thirst for knowledge and his drive to compete. This combination of attributes has allowed him, as an advocate, to temper the spirit of litigation "combat" with an eye toward resolution when it would be in the best interest of his client. It has been said by at least one opposing counsel that "even though we were on opposite sides, I knew he was always a straight shooter and I could take him at his word."

Another Capitol Hill attorney said, "If he had to knock heads with me, he would tell me upfront and then he'd help me up afterward."

While the breadth of his legal skills are well-known in Washington, DC, his unique expertise in constitutional law, litigation, including legal negotiations and settlements, legislative drafting and advocacy is unquestionably superior. Yet John, out of a deep sense of humility and commitment to public service, shrugs off any praise and dismisses his accomplishments, saying "that is what I expect of myself as a public servant." John also is often credited with an uncanny knack for instantaneous legal analysis and an ability to synthesize complex legal issues into simple and understandable terms.

To a large degree, John has credited the development of his expertise in the legislative process to his work as a subcommittee counsel for Chairman and former Congressman Henry J. Nowak of Buffalo. While he has dedicated much of his own time to mentoring and helping other young lawyers with the career development, one of his favorite mentoring tips, he learned from his experience under Mr. Nowak individuals especially those who work for the Congress should become so familiar with an issue that they become "masters of the 30 second briefing."

However, by all accounts, John remains most proud of his accomplishments as an advocate for the men and women of the Capitol Police. Even though it is rare, indeed, that a public servant can be provided with an opportunity to directly impact and improve the lives of individuals, John's successful advocacy for

a "private relief" bill for the widow and children of deceased Capitol Police Sergeant Christopher Eney and his oversight responsibilities for the U.S. Capitol Police Memorial Fund originally established to assist the widow and children of deceased Capitol Police Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson, the only Capitol Police officers ever killed in the line of duty have always been treasured accomplishments for him.

Another example of John's unique and historical contribution to the professional development, respect and prestige attributable to the Capitol Police is his tireless legal analysis, statutory drafting and advocacy spanning several years and culminating in the passage of the Capitol Police Retirement Act of 1990. This long sought law enforcement retirement initiative for the Capitol Police was viewed by many as one of the most significant formal, and historical statutory measures enacted by the Congress that recognized and treated Capitol Police similar to the FBI and the Secret Service as well as all other executive branch federal law enforcement officers.

However, one of the most difficult challenges that John successfully faced relates to his collateral appointment as the Chief Legal Advisor of the United States Capitol Incident Management Team, the congressionally appointed anthrax terrorists acts response entity charged by Congress with the responsibility to address the anthrax terrorist acts of October 2001 widely reported as the deadliest attacks in the history of the United States. Neither the overwhelming long hours, the unique and varied legal complexities, nor the personal and professional responsibilities placed on John relative to the decision-making process as to the appropriate remediation of the buildings and the protection of individuals, nor the requirements of his regular duties as General Counsel could diminish his commitment to the continuity of the Congress and his service to the Capitol Police Board, the Capitol Police and the Congress.

Moreover, in virtually all serious and difficult challenges confronted by the Capitol Police Board and the Capitol Police during his tenure, Caulfield has been heavily relied upon for his unique problem-solving skills. Indeed, after receiving notice of a matter that was seemingly beyond repair John was consistently called upon to find a solution. Under these type of pressure circumstances and with a singular focus, even when faced with the inevitable "finger pointing" of those involved, Caulfield, is almost legendary for his sometimes impatient retort "I'm not interested in fault, you came to me to find a fix." In the development of resolutions in crisis management John exhibits an uncanny ability to quickly assess a given situation and synthesize a proposed solution providing a legal and litigation, as well as political and public relations risks in a concise and understandable manner. As former Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, Jim Molloy once confided to a mutual friend, "John has one of the sharpest and best analytical minds I have ever seen."

John has also demonstrated his dedication to service to the Congressional community by serving as a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of the Wright Patman Congressional Federal Credit Union for approximately 20 years. During his service on the Board of Directors, the credit union has achieved much

growth and success including relocating its headquarters to a new, larger facility. Additionally, John currently serves as the Chairman of the Member Information Security Committee leading the credit union's effort to ensure the protection of member personal information security and related privacy issues.

Madam Speaker, the retirement of John Thomas Caulfield from service to the Congress will bring a sense of loss not only for his substantive legal scholarship and acumen in such diverse areas of expertise as constitutional law, employment and labor law, appropriations law, criminal law and procedure, as well as in all aspects of legislative process and advocacy, but also I trust these revered halls of Congress will miss John's engaging personality, his spontaneous and humorous wit and ready smile.

Madam Speaker, it has often been said that "everyone is replaceable." Well maybe at long last we have found in John Thomas Caulfield the exception to that maxim.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt expression of appreciation for John's many years of dedicated and conscientious public service on behalf of the Congress and the Capitol Police and hearty congratulations on retirement to John, his wife Susan, his children, Jace and Molly, and his entire family.

REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE FEDERAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 167 NORTH MAIN STREET IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE AS THE "CLIFFORD DAVIS/ODELL HORTON FEDERAL BUILDING"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, Odell Horton was appointed to the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee by President Jimmy Carter on May 12, 1980, the first black federal judge appointed since Reconstruction. Judge Horton served as chief judge of the district from January 1, 1987 until December 31, 1993.

Born in Bolivar, Tennessee on May 13, 1929, Odell Horton was the oldest of four boys and a girl. Horton's father was a laborer and his mother took in laundry. Horton's first job at the age of six was delivering laundry for his mother. He and all his siblings picked cotton, stacked lumber and took other odd jobs to help support the family.

After graduating high school in 1946, Odell Horton enlisted in the Marine Corps. He took an early discharge ten months later and entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, using the GI bill to finance the tuition. By the time Horton graduated in 1951, the Korean War was underway and he returned for a second tour of duty.

Upon completion of his second tour of duty, which included graduating from the U. S. Navy School of Journalism, Horton entered Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he received his law degree in 1956. Horton moved to Memphis, rented a one-room office upstairs at 145 Beale Street, and opened his law practice.

Horton was in private practice from 1957 to 1962 and then was an Assistant United States

Attorney in Memphis for the next five years. Governor Bufford Ellington appointed Horton to the Shelby County Criminal Court, a position to which he was later elected without opposition.

In 1968, at the peak of the civil rights movement, with the black sanitation workers in Memphis on strike, Mayor Henry Loeb appointed Horton as director of the city's hospitals, making him the only black division director in City Hall at the time. Horton dealt with a bitter strike by hospital workers, who were represented by the same union leadership as the sanitation workers. During the strike, Horton confronted officials at the University of Tennessee's medical school over the way their doctors treated patients at the hospitals. Judge Horton ordered the desegregation of William F. Bowld hospital and began moving some indigent patients to Bowld and Crump hospitals, which had been reserved for paying patients from the UT doctors' private practices. In 1969, he received the L.M. Graves Memorial Health Award as the person who did the most to advance the cause of health care in Memphis.

Judge Horton stepped down from the bench to serve as the President of LeMoyne-Owen College, a historically African-American liberal arts college, from 1970 to 1974.

Judge Horton returned to federal service upon his appointment as reporter for the Speedy Trial Act Implementation Committee by the Western District Court of Tennessee and later served as U. S. Bankruptcy Judge from 1976 to 1980.

After having served as both jurist and chief justice for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, Judge Horton took senior judge status on May 16, 1995, and two years later, closed his Memphis office.

Judge Odell Horton is remembered as a calm and patient judge, who carefully and deliberately explained legal concepts to jurors.

Judge Horton and his wife, Evie L. (nee Randolph), were married for over fifty years and have two sons, Odell, Jr. and Christopher, who graduated from his alma mater, Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Odell Horton's wife, Evie, spoke for so many in both his professional and personal life when she stated after his death, "He was a rare and precious jewel in the crown of humanity and made all our lives richer and better because he passed this way."

FREEDOM FOR MANUEL UBALS GONZÁLEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Manuel Ubals González, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ubals González, President of the Political Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Club in Guantanamo, Cuba, is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who has worked for basic human rights for the people of Cuba. The persistent repression of human rights on that oppressed island forced Mr. Ubals González to choose between a life without rights or fighting for the

cause of liberty for the Cuban people. Mr. Ubals González admirably chose to dedicate his life to the battle for freedom for the Cuban people.

He joined his fellow Cuban pro-democracy activists, journalists, and human rights defenders and committed himself to helping shed light on the atrocities committed by the brutal tyrant and to help put an end to the abhorrent nightmare that is the Castro regime. On March 20, 2003, as part of the totalitarian regime's ruthless crackdown on pro-democracy activists, Mr. Ubals González was arrested and, after a farce trial, "sentenced" to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

After this sham trial, Mr. Ubals González was sentenced to 20 years in Castro's maniacal dungeon for nothing other than a peaceful exercise of his fundamental right to voice his opinion. Let me be very clear, Mr. Ubals González in suffering in depraved conditions that the U.S. State Department describes as, "Harsh and life threatening" in which "police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners."

As always with prisoners of conscience in Cuba, Mr. Ubals González does not suffer this torture alone. According to the International Committee for Democracy in Cuba, his wife, Mayelin Bolívar González, must travel by train with her three children to visit her husband in prison. However, since the train does not stop at the prison, Mrs. Ubals is forced to watch her two oldest children jump from a moving train before following suit, holding the youngest in her arms every single time she attempts to visit her husband.

Mr. Ubals González is a brilliant example of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination and depravity of the totalitarian despot. He is languishing in repulsive squalor because he does not subscribe to the lies and propaganda forced upon Cuba by the communist regime.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that human beings just 90 miles from our shore are locked in a barbarously cruel gulag because they believe they have a right to freedom and a democratic government. My Colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, especially those who live under the darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand the unconditional freedom for Manuel Ubals González and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

INTRODUCTION OF 2007 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I rise today to introduce the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resolution on behalf of myself and my caucus co-chair, Congressman TED POE of Texas. This resolution expresses Congress's support of the goals and ideals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the efforts to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of crime victims and survivors in the United

States. This observance will take place the week of April 22 through April 28.

In 1980, President Reagan first called for a national observance to recognize and honor the millions of crime victims and survivors in America. National Crime Victims' Rights Week also pays tribute to the thousands of community-based and system-based victim services providers and to the criminal justice and allied professionals who provide critical support and assistance to victims every day, of every week, of every single year. National Crime Victims' Rights Week has since been proclaimed annually with ceremonies and observances in Washington, DC, and in thousands of communities throughout our Nation.

President Reagan's strong emphasis on the rights and needs of crime victims led to the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, which in 1984 created the Crime Victims Fund. Since then, the Crime Victims Fund has dedicated more than \$8 billion collected from criminal fines—not taxpayers' dollars—that annually supports more than 4,400 victim assistance programs serving some 3.8 million victims, and compensation to more than 165,000 victims for their unreimbursed medical expenses, lost wages and funeral costs. The adage, "crime doesn't pay, victims do," is challenged by the VOCA fund, which rightfully holds offenders accountable for their criminal actions, with fines ensuring that crime victims receive the services and support they so greatly need and deserve. And the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus has worked since its inception to preserve the intent and integrity of the Crime Victims Fund as created by President Reagan nearly a quarter century ago.

The 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme is "Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time." Today more than ever, these simple words resonate with greater importance than ever before. In the decade between 1994 and 2004, the National Crime Victimization Survey found that violent crime rates declined, reaching the lowest level ever recorded in 2005. Unfortunately last year, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports reported that crime is, once again, on the rise—violent crime rose 3.7 percent; murders increased 1.4 percent; robberies were up nearly 10 percent; and arson increased by nearly 7 percent. This means more victims than ever suffer the indignation of crime, and have significant losses that affect them physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually. Our caucus and our Congress must recommit our energies to ensure that "every victim of every crime" has access to support and services.

I know that my colleagues in Congress have heard a great deal about violence and victimization, and have heard from those who are directly affected:

The teenage girl who leaves home for the first time to go to college, only to be drugged and raped at a campus party; or the young mother who is beaten by her husband on a regular basis, but fears leaving him because he's threatened to kill her kids, and she has no money, nor no place to go.

"Every victim. Every time."
Or the elderly man—who is abused in a nursing home; or the parents whose only son is killed in a violent drunk driving crash.

"Every victim. Every time."
Or the horrific day that nobody will ever forget—September 11, 2001—when nearly 3,000

people were killed in the terrorist attacks against our Nation in New York, Pennsylvania, and right here in the shadow of our own Capitol.

"Every victim. Every time."

America is a nation known for its commitment to justice. Yet when we consider "criminal justice," that's pretty much what it is about: justice for the criminal and, still too often, little consideration is given to justice for victims. National Crime Victims' Rights Week gives us the chance to talk about "victim justice"—justice for innocent folks whose lives are irrevocably altered by crime. It gives Congress the opportunity to say, "yes," every victim of every crime should receive information about their case; to say, "of course" every victim of every crime should be offered protective measures to make them feel safe; to say, "absolutely," every victim of every crime that results in a conviction should receive restitution directly from the offenders who harmed them.

America's victims' rights movement is leading our entire Nation in this direction. Today, victims of crime and those who serve them have not only a voice, but a vision for what justice should look like in America. Today, there are over 32,000 laws that define and protect victims' rights. We have over 10,000 organizations in our communities and in our systems of justice that help victims cope in the aftermath of crime, and help victims recover. Criminal justice is no longer all about the offender; it is rightfully becoming very much about the victims.

I am proud to be one of the cofounders, along with Representative POE, of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus. The goals of the Victims' Rights Caucus are to (1) represent crime victims in the United States through the bipartisan legislation that reflects their interests, rights and needs; (2) provide an ongoing forum for proactive interactions between the U.S. Congress and national victim assistance organizations to enhance mutual education, legislative advocacy and initiatives that promote justice for all—including victims of crime; and (3) seek opportunities for public education initiatives to help people in America to understand the impact of crime on victims, and to encourage their involvement in crime prevention, victim assistance, and community safety. We have an Advisory Group of victims, survivors, victim advocates and justice professionals who serve as our "eyes and ears" to victims and survivors of crime, and they are not shy about letting us know what victims need.

And we have learned that one thing victims need, the one thing that victims deserve, is recognition of their suffering, and recognition of their need for justice, and their need for supportive services. "Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time."

This is what 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is all about. And this is what Congress can commit to by passing the National Crime Victims' Rights Week resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY LEGISLATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a package of legislation

that achieves a comprehensive approach to the future of renewable energy. As we move forward with national energy policy, I strongly believe we need to start taking steps in a direction that will provide consumers with other options other than just oil based fuels. With crude oil hovering around \$60 a barrel and natural gas around \$8.00 per btu, renewable energy like wind, solar, biomass, ethanol and biodiesel have started to become economically competitive sources of energy for our nation's consumers and businesses. By advancing the use and knowledge of renewable energy, we can lower demand for imported oil and lead our nation towards energy independence.

One of the components I introduced today will push forward an aggressive schedule for renewable fuels by mandating the renewable content of gasoline to be 25 billion gallons by 2025. Under the energy bill, we are mandating that the renewable content of gasoline be at 4 billion gallons by 2006 which is 2% of total gasoline. Once implemented, the "25 by 25" initiative would raise that percentage up to 12.5%.

For farmers, the 25 billion gallon requirement means better commodity prices for corn and soy and more importantly it means jobs. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, a new ethanol plant will: expand the economic base of the local economy by \$110.2 million, generate an additional \$19.6 million of household income, support the creation of as many as 694 permanent new jobs throughout the entire economy of the United States and generate at least \$1.2 million in new tax revenue for the state and local governments.

One problem we face in the advancement of renewable fuels is the sub par infrastructure we currently have in place. With ethanol and biodiesel plants mostly focused within the midwest and with only around 1,000 fuel stations that carry E-85 transportation fuels, it is essential that we provide tax incentives for the construction and development of ethanol and biodiesel plants. Another bill that I will be introducing, the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2007, builds upon the relationship between renewable fuels and industry that started in the last energy bill. The legislation achieves this by providing multiple tax incentives for the construction and development of an infrastructure that will be more able to expand past the Midwest.

The legislation will provide an aggressive 7-year depreciation schedule for all ethanol and biodiesel refining equipment. Also included within this section is a provision that will expand and extend the installation of alternative fuel refueling property that we in Congress passed earlier this year. The provision will allow taxpayers to claim a more effective percentage tax credit for the cost of installing clean-fuel vehicle refueling property to be used in a trade or business of the taxpayer or installed at the principal residence of the taxpayer. This ramped up percentage schedule would help accelerate the construction of the E-85 infrastructure.

Another piece of legislation I introduced today ensures that government agencies will expand their use of renewable fuels. Under this bill, departments and agencies will have to purchase ethanol and biodiesel where it is competitively priced to gasoline and diesel. In the mentality of "practice what you preach" it is time for our own Federal government to increase their use of ethanol and biodiesel

where these fuels are reasonably available. In attempting to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, it should start right here in our Nation's capitol.

I believe the most innovative legislation that I am introducing is a new tax credit that will provide for consumers who purchase a new concept vehicle which combines hybrid and flexible fuel technologies that will be available to consumers in the near future. It is this marriage of these technologies that will create a vehicle that will be better steward to our environment and will further reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil. In providing this tax credit, we promote a greater sense of innovation for the future of automobiles.

In addition to renewable fuels, I believe we also need to make a serious investment in renewable sources of energy like wind, solar and biomass. It is for this reason I have introduced three different bills that will make current tax incentives permanent. The residential energy efficient tax credit, wind energy production tax credit and the renewable energy production tax credit all have been effective in promoting the investment and production of renewable energy. With energy sources like wind, solar and biomass, the up front costs for investment by producers and consumers are high. By giving individuals and businesses small incentives, like the \$2,000 solar credit, we can make it easier for these technologies to be taken advantage of.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I believe we need to take many different approaches in making America energy independent. With the Energy Policy Act of 2005, we took steps forward in reducing our dependence on foreign oil by creating policy that increased the use of renewable energy in tandem with increasing our domestic production of energy sources. Due to the energy bill, we have seen over \$100 million invested in wind energy and four to five new ethanol and biodiesel plants in my district. In total, we saw investment in renewable energy double in the United States to \$68 billion dollars.

We need this investment in renewable energy to continue. These bills are good for farmers, the automobile industry, businesses, consumers, the environment and most importantly, the goal of reducing our dependence on foreign oil. I believe the legislation that I have introduced today, achieves the goals in renewable energy we need to achieve. I ask my colleagues to join me in moving forward with this innovative approach.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, the following is a list of young men who embody service and responsibility and have received the status of Eagle Scout. Today I want to applaud their achievement.

As a proud parent of four Eagle Scouts myself, I can attest to the hard work and dedication these men have put forth to become an Eagle Scout.

Only 5 percent of all Boy Scouts attain the highest advancement rank of Eagle Scout. To do so, a Boy Scout must excel in areas of

leadership, service and outdoor skills, Eagle Scouts must earn 21 merit badges, 12 specific merit badges are required, including, First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, and Family Life.

Service and responsibility are the foundation of the Boy Scouts of America, and these fine young men have mastered an array of skills. Today I want to honor their commitment to these principles.

It is my privilege today to congratulate the following Eagle Scouts on their fine accomplishment:

Morgan Campbell, Anthony Stokes, Michael Maloof, Colin Bornmann, Daryl Lambert, Tyler Campbell, David Benhammou, Joshua Bonlek, Jacob Gelsinger, James Allen, Andrew Perroni, Eric Gillaspie, Stephen Byvoet, Erik Schlabs, Aaron Straight.

Timothy Martin, Erik Umland, Charles Overbay, Nathaniel Jeffrey, Christopher Wu, Jeffrey Marlor, Michael McCreight, Benjamin Kush, Adam Colvin, Anil Damle, Michael Joseph, Alexander Norr, Jonathan Miller, Steven Falk, Peter Zupan, Aaron Schlagheck, Jacob Whatcott, Mathew Jennings, Christopher Howe, Brandon Turner.

Austin Nestlerode, Aric Higgins, Aaron Burkhart, Gregory Wingerter, Stephen Fitzwater, Christopher Malley, Andrew Petering, Andrew Renehan, Michael Tope, Gregory Williams, Joshua Antuna, Jeff Tindell, Gabriel Bennett, Joseph Becar, Stephen Marzulla, Alexander McElhaney, Kyle Moody, Nathan Bennion, Peter Zupan, Jeffery Seymore.

Andrew Kugler, Charles Balch, Joshua Godshall, Timothy Jutras, Devin Sperle, Christopher Weiler, John Vogt, Cameron Ackley, Austin Williams, Stephen Cooley, Christopher Maddox, Benjamin Carlson, Nicholas Holmes, Forrest Lampella, David Law, Daniel McConkie, Kyle Spencer, Adam Stanton, Mark Nader, Tyler Hill.

Benjamin Hallgarth, Daniel Evans, Brian Hicks, Nicholas Glass, Aaron Busse, Derek Kirchhoefer, Alexander Ramsay, William Whittemore, Jr., Luke Saunders, Connor O'Laughlin, Nicholas Davis, Aaron Novy, Ian Watson, Sean Steele, Jordan Barnett, Kenji Tanabe, Christopher Ciccolella, Bryan Bredfeldt, Jonathan Johnson, Christopher Temple.

Michael Temple, Matthew Davidson, Adam Feliz, Sean Anderson, David Lloyd, Raymond Stauffer, Adam Khan, Stephen Hornung, Stephen Gremillion, Robert Miller, Adam Jensen, Peter Mattingly, Benjamin Provolt, Robert Burns, James Dwyer, Christopher Hare, Nicholas Cunningham, Skylar Warner, Jared Stoltz, Erik Rodriguez.

Adam Phipps, Adam Muffler, Joseph Yeurdjian, Seth Grover, Matthew Heimerman, Krystopher Ford, Robert Burton, James Nealy, Carson Hiltbrand, Nathan Mather, Matthew Sewell, Nicholas Kramer, Matthew Ford, Michael Coleman, Kevin Zrust, Trevor Wallner, Jordan Smiley, Matthew Zrust, Nikolas Rajcevich, Bryan Rapacz.

Colby Baker, Chad Barrens, Alma Dally, Daniel Hellewell, Kurt Hanson, Roger Greenlaw III, Andrew Grimald, Aaron Cowles, Thomas Lightbody.

TRIBUTE TO S. JERRARD SMITH

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. S. Jerrard Smith, a philanthropist and leader for Colorado Springs.

He was a respected businessman, who served as president of Western Forge from 1998–2001 and also the managing director of the Colorado Baking Company. Yet what he valued more than any of these accomplishments was a drive for making the community of Colorado Springs a better place for all residents.

Mr. Smith epitomized philanthropy and giving. Under his leadership, fundraising grew over 18 percent during his 5 years as United Way president, to more than \$5.5 million that goes a long way toward community projects and revitalization. He has left a legacy for Pikes Peak United Way that no other has nor ever will.

Jerry was a man with great vision and a passion for giving. He lived all of the core principles that United Way champions—Respect, Caring, Fairness, Integrity, Competence, Celebration and Passion. Friends described him as a renaissance man, who enjoyed symphony, opera, gardening, and gourmet cooking, a man equally at ease talking about football and azaleas.

There was a special place in his heart for this community and the United Way. He had served the agency first as chair in the 1980s, and was its chair again in 2002, when the position of CEO opened and he sought it.

Jerry passed away while doing something he loved—running in North Cheyenne Canyon. Jerry touched the lives of everyone he met, his legacy is eternal. The City of Colorado Springs is deeply grateful for his contributions and he will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO GUARDIAN INDUSTRIES AND ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Guardian Industries which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this week. This company's positive impact on Michigan's economy should be commended and I am pleased they are headquartered in my district, in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Guardian is one of the largest manufacturers of float glass and fabricated glass products. They also manufacture and supply the automotive industry with a variety of exterior products and have a significant presence in the building materials distribution business. In addition, Guardian is the world's largest producer of mirrors.

Guardian Industries began in 1932 as Guardian Glass Company, a small windshield fabricator in Detroit, Michigan. In 1968, the company changed its name to Guardian Industries Corporation and two years later they opened their first float glass manufacturing line

in Carleton, Michigan. Nearly thirty years later, in 1995, Guardian moved their corporate headquarters to a new facility in Auburn Hills, which I now represent.

Guardian Industries long-time contribution to Michigan's economy is substantial. Through three divisions—glass, automotive, and building products—Guardian Industries employs nearly 19,000 workers, including more than 1,000 in southeast Michigan. Guardian's commitment to making southeast Michigan a focus point for innovation can be seen through the company's Science & Technology Center. Guardian has also been an active supporter of the community, such as offering scholarships for local students pursuing advance education and providing financial support to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Madam Speaker, Guardian Industries has been a leader in the United States and global glass, automotive, and building products industries. I congratulate them on their 75th anniversary as they continue to implement its philosophy of entrepreneurship and progressive management.

HONORING DR. MARSHA COLEMAN-ADEBAYO FOR HER LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as we begin observance of Black History Month, to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, a leader in the struggle for civil rights and worker protection.

Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo won an historic lawsuit in 2000 against the Environmental Protection Agency for race, sex, and color discrimination and a hostile work environment. As a result of this victory and her subsequent testimony before Congress, the Notification of Federal Employees Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act ("NO FEAR Act") was passed by Congress and signed into law. Thousands of federal workers and their families have benefited from this law.

After passage of this legislation, Dr. Coleman-Adebayo formed the No FEAR Coalition, a group of civil rights and whistle-blowing organizations dedicated to working for increased legislative protections for federal employees, who speak out to protect the public good. We must ensure that these courageous individuals are not penalized.

Dr. Coleman-Adebayo has had a distinguished academic career. She earned a B.A. degree from Barnard College/Columbia University and a doctorate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She holds an academic chair at George Mason University and is an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Studies. She has also taught at MIT, American University and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Dr. Coleman-Adebayo has served at the United Nations, representing it in Ethiopia and Tanzania. At the National Summit on Africa, she chaired the Sustainable Development and Environment Expert Group and was the Executive Secretary for the U.S./South Africa Binational Commission.

Dr. Coleman-Adebayo's work has been frequently recognized and she has received numerous honors and awards, including Harvard University's award for Outstanding Commitment to Global Health and Development and Good Housekeeping Magazine's Woman of the Year. She was selected by the National Whistleblower Center as one of the most influential "truth-tellers" in the United States and was inducted into the Project on Government Oversight's Hall of Fame. Dr. Coleman-Adebayo is the subject of a major motion picture, currently in production, entitled "No FEAR: The Marsha Coleman-Adebayo Story."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo for her lifelong commitment to civil and workers' rights.

HONORING NEWARK MAYOR DAVID W. SMITH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mayor of Newark, California, David W. Smith. Mayor Smith has served the citizens of Newark, California for 27 years. He has the distinction of being the longest serving Mayor in California and presently the fourth longest serving Mayor in the United States.

Mayor Smith is a native of Detroit, Michigan. He has extensive management experience in the private sector and is currently Executive Director for Asset and Enterprise Management Systems at Ohlone College.

His government experience is equally impressive. He was elected to the Newark City Council in 1976 and was elected Mayor in 1978. He has served in the United States Conference of Mayors in a myriad of capacities including Trustee on the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee Chair, Membership Committee Chair, member of the Arts Committee and the Education Committee.

Mayor Smith is past President of the Alameda Conference of Mayors and former Chairman of the Alameda County Transportation Authority. He is Chairman of the Newark Redevelopment Agency, the Newark Community Development Advisory Committee and the Newark Disaster Council.

His awards and honors are noteworthy. He is a life member of the U.S. Jaycees, and had the honor of being selected as one of California's Five Outstanding Young Men, Outstanding Young Alumni at Michigan Technological University and is a former member of Mensa. He is among the Distinguished Alumni of Calumet High School and received the Hometown Hero Award from the Newark National Little League.

On March 22, 2007, the Mission Peak District of the Boy Scouts of America will present Mayor Smith with its 2006 "Good Scout Award" at a community breakfast in its honor. I join the community expressing appreciation to Mayor David Smith for his commitment to service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERMANENT INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT OF 2007

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act of 2007. This legislation completes the work begun by Congress in 1998, by permanently banning discriminatory or duplicative state or local taxes on Internet access and e-commerce.

When Congress first instituted a temporary moratorium in 1998, the goal was to promote the growth of online commerce and encourage universal access. This policy has been a resounding success, fostering growth in productivity and innovation and widening public access to information. A 2006 report by the Pew Internet and American Life Project demonstrated that 73 percent of those polled were Internet users, up from 66 percent in a similar 2005 survey. While Americans use the Internet for a myriad of reasons, e-commerce has particularly flourished and continues to grow at an exceptional rate. In 2006 alone, online retail exceeded \$100 billion, increasing 24 percent over 2005.

Despite the successes we have seen, there is still much work to be done. Internet usage still lags behind in rural and lower income areas and the United States has fallen from 4th to 16th in broadband penetration worldwide since 2001. In order to reverse this trend, we need to ensure that access costs are kept to a minimum. Prohibiting unnecessary access taxes will help accomplish this goal.

We also need to allow unfettered access to the products and new services that are only available through the Internet and prevent multiple layers of state and local taxes. Otherwise, we will open the door to a myriad of barriers to Internet commerce that will drive consumers from a web-based marketplace and stifle innovation.

Congress twice passed extensions to the moratorium in 2001 and again in 2004. Unfortunately, in November of this year the most recent extension will expire. Should Congress fail to renew this moratorium the continued growth and progress in Internet access and e-commerce will be endangered.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my efforts to make this moratorium permanent and finally assure consumers that their Internet access and e-commerce will remain unhindered by discriminatory and duplicative taxes.

BLOUNTSTOWN FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to congratulate a group of students from Blountstown, FL, who have recently won the National Future Farmers of America Forestry Career Development Event at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

The forestry team from Blountstown represented the State of Florida, competing against 37 other teams from around the country in the national forestry event. The competition was part of the 79th National FFA Convention.

I am pleased to recognize all of the members of the Blountstown forestry team who contributed to the victory. The championship team consisted of Blountstown students Nic Stoltzfus, Will Leonard, Max Herndon, and Jennie Fagen. As the winning team, these exceptional students received scholarships to further their educations at a post-secondary institution of their choice. Leading the team of future agricultural professionals was Blountstown FFA sponsor Ron Mears.

These students have demonstrated impressive knowledge in the area of forest management, and I'm so proud of their hard work and their dedication to this important field. On behalf of my fellow Floridians, I applaud the Blountstown Future Farmers of America on their victory and national recognition.

LANE EVANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 521 which would designate the United States Postal Service building located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, IL, as the Lane Evans Post Office Building. I thank Representative HARE for introducing this legislation.

Lane Evans has been a close and dear friend to me and my husband, Bob Creamer, since Lane's very first campaign in 1982. That friendship, through thick and thin, has been and will always be so precious to us. We are grateful to Lane for being such an important part of our lives. We love him very much.

I had the privilege of working for Lane Evans's first campaign. At the time Lane declared his candidacy, he was considered a sacrificial lamb running against a well-entrenched Republican incumbent. His winning seemed like a pipe dream. However, there was something special in this young, legal assistance attorney, and he quietly fought to win his seat in the House, giving the many labor union workers, consumer and civil rights activists, and ordinary residents of this western Illinois district the representation they deserved.

During that first campaign, Lane was modest, unassuming, friendly, and also inspiring. He showed a humble respect for each and every voter, addressing them in the soft-spoken, sincere manner that he never lost. The quiet strength that came from being a United States Marine during the Vietnam era always shone through.

From the first day and throughout his career in the House, Lane Evans remained true to his core progressive beliefs. The working and retired men and women of his district and the veterans throughout the Nation could always count on Lane Evans being there for them—no excuses, no exceptions.

As the Ranking Democrat of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Lane Evans was

recognized as the leading advocate of veterans in Congress, responsible for legislation to compensate veterans and their families for the effects of Agent Orange, help Persian Gulf and women veterans, and those now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans' service organizations have honored Lane with their highest awards.

Lane Evans has always been a leader in the fight for universal health care. Although Parkinson's disease has forced him to end his productive service in the House, he always acknowledges how fortunate he is to be able to afford the best care, while so many Americans are not. He has become an advocate for expanding funding for research into the cure for Parkinson's and many other diseases that might benefit from government-funded embryonic stem cell research.

When Lane Evans retired from the House of Representatives last year, Senator DURBIN said the following: "There are two kinds of courage in this world. There is physical courage, which is rare. Then there is even a rarer commodity, moral courage. Once in a great while you find someone who has both. Lane Evans is that person." I could not agree with Senator DURBIN more.

I miss Lane Evans' presence in the Halls of Congress on a day-to-day basis. However, my sadness is easily deflected by Lane's legacy that will ever be reflected in the improved lives of the veterans of the United States and all the working families who will continue to benefit from his outstanding service.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 521.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM AS THE "BOB HOPE MEMORIAL LIBRARY"

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of legislation that I have introduced to designate the third floor library of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library." I would also like to thank Representative GALLEGLY for his assistance with this bill. I believe that it is important to honor Bob Hope, an American Citizen, who immigrated through Ellis Island and who contributed so greatly to the American people and culture.

Most Americans remember Bob Hope for his work in the entertainment business as a comedian, actor, dancer, and singer as well as his work with American troops abroad. But, what few know is that Bob Hope was an immigrant from England. He is sometimes even referred to as America's most famous immigrant, whose life epitomizes the "American Dream." After a long period of restoration, Ellis Island was turned into a museum in 1990 with the purpose for people to come and remember the 16 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island from 1892–1954 to pursue the American Dream. Bob Hope embodies that American Dream which so many immigrants

sought and I believe that naming the library after this great American is a fitting tribute.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROGRAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, together with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am again introducing legislation to provide permanent funding for two programs that are very important to counties and other local units of government in Colorado and many other States.

Our bill is identical to one we introduced in the 109th Congress. Under the bill, the full amounts authorized under both the payments in lieu of taxes, PILT, program and the refuge revenue sharing program would be made available to the Secretary of the Interior annually, for distribution to eligible local governments in accordance with those programs.

This would eliminate the requirement for annual appropriations for PILT and refuge revenue sharing purposes and would shield them against the kind of political short-sightedness demonstrated in the presidential budget that has repeatedly failed to request full funding for PILT and has even proposed cuts from amounts Congress has previously provided.

While both programs are significant, PILT is particularly important for counties in Colorado and other States that include large expanses of Federal lands. In 2006, for example, counties in Colorado received more than \$17.4 million out of a total of more than \$232 million distributed nationwide.

Congress created the PILT program in response to a recommendation of the Public Land Law Review Commission, chaired by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall, who represented what was then Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. It reflected a recognition that a system of payments based on acreage was more equitable and reliable than one tied to management decisions such as timber harvests or other uses.

Counties use their PILT payments for a wide variety of purposes, including some—such as law enforcement, fire fighting, and search and rescue—that are directly related to the Federal lands within their boundaries and the people who use those lands.

For nearly two decades after the program was established, PILT funding remained level but the value of PILT payments was eroded by inflation. In 1995, Congress amended the law to raise the authorization level. However, since 1995, no budget request—from either President Clinton or President Bush—has requested more than two-thirds of the amount authorized by the PILT Act. As a result, the burden on county taxpayers has not been reduced to the extent that Congress intended when it passed the 1995 legislation. Our bill would ensure full implementation of that legislation.

HONORING HENRY M. THOMAS III

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday night, January 24, 2007, the University of Massachusetts presented Henry M. Thomas III of Springfield, MA, with its Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes the "demonstrated leadership" and "exemplary accomplishments" of an individual, and I can think of no one more worthy than my friend Henry Thomas.

Henry Thomas is a life-long friend of mine and I would like to extend at this time my heartfelt congratulations to him upon receiving this prestigious honor. I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today a history of Henry Thomas's accomplishments and dedication to the city of Springfield, social activism and education. Congratulations Henry on an award that is well-deserved.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO HENRY M. THOMAS III, JANUARY 24, 2007.

No one in our time has made greater civic contributions to western Massachusetts than Henry M. Thomas III, or shown greater courage and resolve in doing so. His record of achievement during the past three and a half decades has been dazzling in its depth and diversity.

Thomas is president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Springfield Inc., which he joined in 1971 as youth and education director. The Urban League serves the African American community by promoting through advocacy and services the academic and social development and the economic self-sufficiency of young people and families. It also fosters racial inclusion and social justice.

Thomas showed an early aptitude for leadership. Within 4 years he was promoted to director of voter registration and education at the Springfield Urban League, and then to deputy director. In 1975, when only 25 years old, he was named president and CEO, the youngest person ever so appointed in an Urban League affiliate. He is a past president of the National Urban League Executives and served for 2 years as vice president for youth development at the New York office of the National Urban League, developing infrastructure to support inner-city youth.

Many other institutions and organizations have been touched by Thomas's energetic idealism and executive skill. As the first African American chairman of the Springfield Fire Commission from 1985 to 1998, he demonstrated a courageous willingness to challenge a rule that forbade fire department applicants from having an arrest record, as opposed to a conviction—this at a time when blacks and Latinos were frequently arrested on spurious grounds. Ten years later, as the first black chairman of the Springfield Police Commission, Thomas received death threats after granting three African Americans promotions to sergeant.

In January 2006, Governor Mitt Romney appointed Thomas vice chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education, on which he had served since 2001. Thomas was also recently appointed to the transition team of Governor Deval Patrick.

Camp Atwater in North Brookfield, MA, the Nation's oldest African American summer youth residential camp, has long benefited from Thomas's support: he reopened it in 1980 following a 6-year hiatus and serves

as its CEO. He also serves on a number of local and national boards and commissions. Thomas founded and is the presiding chairman of the board of Springfield's New Leadership Charter School, is a member of the board of the American Camping Association, and chairs the board of trustees of the Springfield Cable Endowment. He founded and is a co-chairman of Step Up Springfield and is on the executive committee of the Hamden County Regional Employment Board.

An earnest and inspired educator, Thomas has been a visiting professor in the Master's of Regional Planning Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts. He hosts a weekly community talk show, "Urban League Community Focus," now in its 15th year on Springfield radio station WTCC.

Thomas grew up in Springfield, where at Technical High School he was his class's only black gymnast. Equally adept on the gridiron, he was offered dozens of college football scholarships and accepted one at American International College in Springfield. There he founded the black student organization and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1971 and a master's degree in human resource development 2 years later. In 1983 he received a jurisprudence doctorate from Western New England College School of Law. Thomas has called his law degree "an invaluable tool for dealing with government officials, community leaders, and the business aspects of running a multimillion-dollar nonprofit agency. . . . Virtually every area of my work involves law in some degree."

He has also received honorary doctorates from Westfield State College and Bay Path College. In 1999, he received an Executive Leadership Program Certificate from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Thomas gives enormous credit to his wife, Devonia J. Thomas, for the support and encouragement she has provided throughout his career. The Thomases have been married for 35 years and live in Springfield's historic Forest Park neighborhood in a home well stocked with books and artifacts reflecting their love of African American history and African art, especially Shona art from what is now Zimbabwe. Their son, Perren, is an investment banker on Wall Street. Their daughter, Shadae, is a fourth-grade teacher in Cambridge, MA. Thomas relaxes by playing racquetball and the saxophone and by reading and watching a good deal of football.

HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to humbly honor the life of one of America's most courageous pioneers in the civil rights movement—Frederick Douglass. Frederick Douglass was born 189 years ago this month, and although it has been over a century since he has walked this earth, his imprint on American history remains.

For the past 21 years, I have had the privilege of representing Rochester, New York in Congress; and the city's historic commitment to the advancement of progressive causes has always served as an inspiration to me. When I am standing on the House floor, exhausted

by another debate to protect our civil liberties, my spirit is reinvigorated when I think of Frederick Douglass' Rochester newspaper, the North Star, and the phrase printed on its masthead: "Right is of no sex—Truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren."

Beyond being a source of inspiration, Frederick Douglass is the subject of adoration as one of America's bravest heroes. After he escaped slavery in 1838, he devoted the remainder of his life to freeing other slaves and to ending the practice of slavery itself. Upon settling in Rochester, he used the city's location near the Canadian border to lead local Underground Railroad activities, giving sanctuary to freedom seekers as they fled from slavery, oppression, and injustice.

In addition to his work in the abolitionist movement, Douglass fought to ensure that freed slaves were treated fairly. In 1863, Douglass met with President Lincoln to discuss the treatment of black soldiers in the civil war. He later met with President Andrew Johnson to discuss black suffrage. His tireless efforts in support of freedom and equality laid the ground work for future civil rights movements.

Intolerant of any injustice, Douglass worked closely with another one of Rochester's leading progressive advocates, Susan B. Anthony, to fight for women's suffrage. In fact, he used his North Star newspaper not only to denounce slavery, but also to advocate for women's rights.

Douglass found a home in Rochester among the progressive activists of the mid-1800 who fought for social reforms, the peace movement, and universal equality. It is certainly no surprise that Frederick Douglass felt a special connection to the City of Rochester, and chose to be buried here.

Madam Speaker, Frederick Douglass' persistence, perseverance, and pertinacity serve as a timeless source of inspiration for Americans struggling for freedom against today's injustices. I urge my colleagues to join with me in celebrating and honoring Frederick Douglass' birth-month. America and the City of Rochester are fortunate to have had such an outstanding leader among us. We must never forget his legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK A. LOHMAN AS HE RETIRES FROM THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Frederick A. Lohman, senior vice president of real estate and asset management for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, who recently announced his resignation to accept a position with Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services.

During his 19 years with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Mr.

Lohman has been responsible for all aspects of real estate development including planning, financing, development, management and disposition of real estate assets. He also served as the executive vice president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Development Corporation and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, Inc.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry is a community, economic development and business service organization charged with the mission of collaborating with community and regional partners to create quality employment and business opportunities and improve the area's quality of life through strategic planning, programs and investments.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Lohman worked successfully with talented coworkers and dedicated volunteer community leaders to change the economic landscape of the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

He joined the chamber in 1987 as business manager. He later served as vice president, controller, senior vice president, chief financial officer and senior vice president of real estate and asset management.

Mr. Lohman contributed toward the expansion of the Crestwood and Hanover Industrial Parks and the construction of three new parks including the Corporate Center at East Mountain, Hanover Crossings and Highland Park, home to the Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza.

The chamber was responsible for redeveloping the former Pomeroy's Department Store building into what is now Public Square Commons, a first class office building, and the former Woolworth's Five and Dime Store, which is now home to the Innovation Center, a business incubator, as well as a joint collegiate bookstore, Barnes and Noble College Booksellers.

Mr. Lohman played an integral role in one of the chamber's most aggressive efforts—the Northampton and Main Redevelopment Project, a 160,000-square-foot urban mixed use, entertainment-based, commercial and residential complex containing a 14-screen cinema, retail space and loft housing.

Lohman is a 1976 graduate of Wilkes College, now Wilkes University, and received his master's degree in 1986 from Marywood University. He previously served as municipal manager for Edwardsville Borough and Towanda Borough and as director of the Wilkes University's Small Business Development Center.

On a personal note, let me express my sincere appreciation for all the assistance Fred has provided to me throughout the years. Whenever I have called on him to assist in furthering the progress of any project that would bring jobs to the region, he has been unfailingly generous with his time and expertise. He is a truly talented professional, and I am pleased to also call him a personal friend.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Lohman for his years of service to the Greater Wilkes-Barre community. The talent and dedication he brought to his role as a business development executive has paid many dividends that have improved the quality of life throughout the region, and I wish him well in his new position in the private sector.

HONORING WALLACE BROECKER
AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S
LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OB-
SERVATORY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Wallace Broecker, a geochemist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory for recently being awarded the Crafoord Prize in Geosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Mr. Broecker was honored with this prize for his stellar work in studying the role oceans play in the carbon cycle. As we debate how to control global warming in this Congress, Mr. Broecker's work will better inform us on the best policy approach to this global threat.

Dr. Broecker did his groundbreaking work at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, which resides in my district. This incredible facility is one of the world's leading research centers on how our biosphere operates. More than 300 research scientists at the observatory research every aspect of our planet including volcanoes, earthquakes and global warming.

To get the data necessary for their work, the observatory has led expeditions around the world to collect data. Using their 239-foot research vessel, the *Maurice Ewing*, the observatory has collected samples from the ocean floor, studied seismic activity and collected ocean soil core samples. Through this work the observatory has amassed the world's largest collection of deep-sea and ocean-sediment cores from every sea and ocean on the planet.

The observatory has taken the massive amounts of data they have accumulated and created some of the world's most comprehensive databases of ocean activity critical to the work of marine geoscientists such as Dr. Broecker.

Madam Speaker, my hat is off to Wallace Broecker for earning this fantastic honor. His work and the work of the entire Lamont-Doherty Earth observatory is an invaluable resource for other scientists and for policy-makers as we struggle to balance our economic well being with our requirement to be stewards of the environment.

RECOGNITION OF MERCER AND
MONROE COUNTIES AS BEST
COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two counties in my district, Mercer and Monroe, which have recently received the honor as two of the Nation's "100 Best Communities for Youth for 2007" by the Alliance for Youth. This is the second such award for Mercer County, which was also honored last year.

These counties competed against hundreds of communities in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Is-

lands, who were all vying for the unique distinction.

This award is well-deserved, as these communities have dedicated themselves to fostering a healthy, safe, and caring environment for our young people. I share this vision, and am deeply honored to have the only two localities in West Virginia recognized located in my district.

I pledge to continue my work to make the communities of the Third District a healthy and nurturing environment for our children, by supporting legislation that will keep our children safe. Last year, I supported legislation to better fund our law enforcement. I also supported the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, a bill that will protect children and save countless lives by dramatically improving efforts against sex offenders and violent criminals. In addition, I took action in the House of Representatives to protect West Virginia children from Internet predators, voting in support of the Deleting Online Predators Act and similar legislation.

While these steps are significant, it is by far the end of our work. As the folks of Mercer and Monroe Counties can attest, we must never waver from our commitment to our youth. As much as we accomplish, we must always strive to do better.

West Virginia native and renowned author Pearl S. Buck once said, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all."

These are words to live by, words that Mercer and Monroe Counties are living by today. I again commend the entire community—the teachers, the civic leaders, the parents and the children as well, who are all so very bright—for the hard work they have done and continue to do.

I encourage other communities in the Third District and across West Virginia and our Nation to follow the fine example set by Mercer and Monroe Counties. As the Alliance for Youth said, "They are shining examples of what it means to keep America's promise to our young people."

IN HONOR OF LOUIS POSEN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished and accomplished constituent: Louis Posen, who has dedicated the last 6 years of his life to two extremely important causes: achieving mental health parity and reducing the unacceptable rate of suicide that plagues this country.

Each year, more than 30,000 people die from suicide. For our youth, it is the third leading cause of death. And these deaths can be prevented.

Louis's story is remarkable in many ways. In 1993, he started his own record label, and called it Hopeless Records—not for lack of hope, but in honor of one of the first songs he produced.

It is hard to imagine that this successful label began in his living room with only \$1,000 of seed money which was contributed by his helpful brother.

As Hopeless Records grew, Louis started a subsidiary label called Sub City. From this

label grew the Take Action Tour, which uses the proceeds from concerts and record sales to support worthy charities.

Since 2001, the Tour has joined with the National Hopeline Network, 1-800-SUICIDE. So far, Louis and the Tour have raised over \$1 million to help target the Hopeline and other mental health issues.

Louis has also collected over 100,000 signatures in support of mental health parity. He has educated both the public and their elected representatives about this and other important mental health issues.

As recently as 2000, the Federal budget had no funding for suicide prevention. Due in no small part to Louis's tireless work, Congress now provides at least modest support for programs to help prevent suicide.

We are grateful to Louis and the Tour for helping to fund programs such as the National Suicide Hotline and the Youth America Hotline. These are extremely valuable resources for individuals in times of crisis.

It is also a privilege today to recognize Reese Butler, founder of the Kristin Brooks Hope Center and the National Suicide Hotline.

Together, Reese and Louis have created a public/private partnership that has helped tens of thousands of people and is a great example of how such a partnership can work.

I strongly support legislation to provide mental health parity and additional funding for programs that will help reduce the unacceptably high number of suicides in this country. Again, I congratulate the Take Action Tour, Reese Butler and Louis Posen for their work on these critical issues.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED C. YSRAEL
AS GUAM'S EXECUTIVE OF THE
YEAR FOR 2006

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that on Saturday, January 13, 2007, Mr. Alfred C. Ysrael of Tamuning, Guam, was recognized as the 2006 Executive of the Year during a ceremony sponsored by Guam Business magazine. Mr. Ysrael is the chairman and president of Tanota Partners, which owns and operates three hotels and several other profitable real estate holdings on Guam. He has spent the last 50 years growing and diversifying his business interests on Guam, creating thousands of local jobs for Guam's workforce and strengthening Guam's economy. The year 2007 marked the occasion of the 24th anniversary of Guam Business magazine presenting the Executive of the Year award.

It is not uncommon for successful businessmen, such as Alfred, to come from humble beginnings. They start out with only a dream, a few dollars in their pockets, and a commitment to excellence. Hard work and an unfaltering belief in what they seek to accomplish are essential to their success. Alfred was born and raised in the Philippines. He graduated from De La Salle University in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in commerce ready and eager to pursue the American dream. Mr. Ysrael now stands as a prominent figure among the pioneers of post-war business and commerce on Guam.

Mr. Ysrael arrived on Guam in 1952 as a guest worker with a 3-year contract to serve as an accountant for a military bowling alley. He purchased six surplus bowling lanes and opened the Anigua Bowling Alley, Guam's first, post-war civilian bowling alley upon completing his contract. Seven years later, in 1958, he became a U.S. citizen and was drafted into the U.S. Army. Alfred served his adopted country with honor and after his service returned to civilian life to his fledgling business interests. In 1960, he married Diana Zeien, my sister, with whom he has five children: Michael, Elizabeth, Mariana, Catherine, and Donna. Alfred is a devoted father and husband who always placed his family responsibilities first. His son Michael now serves as general manager of Tanota Partners, and his daughter Donna also has joined the firm. Alfred and Diana are the proud, loving grandparents of 13 grandchildren.

Alfred opened the Fujita Hotel, which catered to the Japanese tourists who arrived too late in the evening to secure hotel rooms, in the late 1960s when Guam's tourist industry was in its infancy. Alfred also invested in bringing Hilton International to Guam and remains a shareholder in Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. In 1987, he built the SunRoute, Ohana, Hotel and the Regency, Ohana, 2 years later. Mr. Ysrael's most recent venture was the construction and operation of the Outrigger Guam Resort in 1999. Alfred also developed apartment buildings in addition to building hotels. His tenants were primarily teachers and other workers hired from off-island. In time, however, as Guam's population grew and housing shortages became acute, many came to know Mr. Ysrael as their landlord.

Alfred and his businesses also have given much back to the community. Alfred was elected to serve the people of Guam as a senator in the 12th and 13th Guam Legislatures, from 1973 to 1977. He also served as a member of the Guam Board of Education from 1970 to 1971. Alfred further has a long and established record of philanthropy and community service on Guam. Largely as a result of his commitment to family and community and a strong belief in sports for young people—his own children are accomplished athletes—Mr. Ysrael and Tanota Partners are supporters of swimming, soccer and Tae Kwon Do teams on Guam. They also provide support for the South Pacific Games, the Guam National Olympic Committee, and the American Cancer Society's Annual Relay for Life. Athletics aside, Alfred and his family have also helped to raise funds for the American Cancer Society to increase awareness about breast cancer on Guam.

It is said that successful business persons should give back to the community that fostered their success. For the past 50 years and continuing today, Mr. Alfred C. Ysrael has indeed come far from humble beginnings and has given back in many, many ways to our island community which he proudly calls home.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Franklin High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for winning the 2006 TSSAA Cheerleading (Large Squad) State Championship.

On November 18, 2006 at Middle Tennessee State University, hundreds of hours of hard work were rewarded as the Lady Rebels narrowly upset another squad that had recently won a national championship.

This recognition reflects a dedication to practice and commitment to excellence. The teambuilding skills acquired by working together as a squad will doubtless benefit these young women for a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking the parents, coaches and faculty of Franklin High School and again congratulating the members of the 2006 State Championship squad. I am sure this is not the last we will hear from this talented group of young women.

Laura Satterfield, Lindsey Jones, Taylor Kennerly, Kathleen Engstrand, Christie Kibler, Stacey Caravetta, Carly Joseph, Hannah Johnson, Chelsea Steen, Kacey Capps, Kelsey Raymond, Kate Allman, Rachel Mezger, Mary Musgrove, Kelsi Cates, Corianne Carter, Chelsea Ridens, Taylor Harrell, Grace Tenkhoff, Paige Tenkhoff, Kathryn Chambers, Courtland Harrell, Caroline Watson, Chandler Howell, Sara Thames.

HONORING BILL HILES FOR HIS LONG SERVICE TO TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Hiles, who is retiring this week after working for 23 years as a journalist at the Dyersburg State Gazette in Dyersburg, Tennessee. He has proven himself a quality writer who fairly, accurately and completely covers the information that is important to our community in northwest Tennessee.

Even before coming to the State Gazette, Bill was a distinguished scholar, journalist and pastor. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, and a Master's Degree in Systematic Theology from the University of Durham in Durham, England. He has also studied at Vanderbilt University and the George Peabody College for Teachers, taught college-level writing and public relations courses and, having been ordained as a minister of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, served as pastor at several churches throughout Tennessee. After working at the Associated Press and United Press International, Bill was a general assignment reporter and sports columnist at The Tennessean in Nashville, Tennessee, where he

once sat across the desk from future Vice President Al Gore.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Bill during his long service to Tennessee, and I am proud to call him my friend. I hope you and our colleagues will join Betty Ann and me in thanking Bill Hiles for his work, congratulating him on his well-earned retirement and wishing him all the best in the years to come.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the grand opening of Philadelphia's Academy of Music—our "Grand Old Lady of Locust Street." Since January 26, 1857, the Academy has hosted more than one billion attendees at almost half a million performances. Generations of the region's children have sat in her elegant auditorium and caught their breath as the curtain rose on their first experience of an opera or ballet performance. Millions of them have sat up in wonder as they heard The Philadelphia Orchestra's rousing sounds for the first time. Hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians have walked proudly across the Academy's stage to accept their commencement certificate. Audiences and artists alike have flocked to Philadelphia from around the world because of the Academy of Music.

What a remarkable legacy for one building—a legacy that has a deeply personal meaning for many generations of the region's families who share memories of attending special events within her walls; a legacy that laid the foundation on which the city created the Avenue of the Arts, built the shining new Kimmel Center, and made Philadelphia one of the most vibrant cultural destinations in the world; a legacy of which all Philadelphia-area residents can be proud.

The Academy of Music 150th Anniversary Concert and Ball, held on January 27, 2007, reflected many facets of the Academy's rich history. World-renowned artists host Tom Brokaw, soprano Deborah Voigt, tenor Ben Heppner and vocalists John Lithgow, with Music Director Christoph Eschenbach and our own celebrated Philadelphia Orchestra and Philadelphia Singers, presented an outstanding program of grand opera, theater, Broadway, classical and popular music.

The concert was attended by over 2,400 of the region's political, civic and corporate leaders as well as special guests Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Even the Prince's visit has a historical precedent in the Academy's rich past: his great, great grandfather, Edward VII, was one of the early visiting dignitaries to grace the Academy at a gala performance by the popular soprano Adelina Patti in 1860. The Prince of Wales will sit in the same box, dubbed "the Prince of Wales Box" since the 1860 visit that his ancestor occupied before him.

I congratulate the Academy on its sesquicentennial and look forward to many more years of important cultural contributions to our city.

HONORING JOHN NANCE GARNER
ELEMENTARY UPON ITS 20TH-
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Nance Garner Elementary for its 20th Anniversary of providing a superb education for the students of Grand Prairie, Texas.

The middle years of the 1980's found Grand Prairie south of I-20 to be a quiet, nearly rural collection of established county homes accented by a growing number of brand new housing developments. The need was clear for a new elementary school to serve the children who would eventually explode into this area with a force that no one yet imagined.—

John Nance Garner's doors opened in the fall of 1987 to an enrollment of 368 students with 14 teachers in grades K–5. Named for the 32nd Vice President of the United States under Franklin Roosevelt, the school's mascot was All-Stars.

Twenty years have passed. Unprecedented growth resulting from the creation of Joe Pool Lake brought a generation of children through the doors at 145 Polo Road. A new wing was built in 1996 to accommodate the increasing enrollment, which peaked at over 725 students in 1997. Present enrollment hovers just under 500 students.

Garner Elementary has earned a place of honor in Grand Prairie ISD. It has become a family of dedicated educators and loyal volunteers, as well as a diverse mix of energetic youngsters who are proud to be today's Garner All-Stars.

The world has changed much since 1987, but at Garner Elementary, the focus continues to be making each student feel like an All-Star.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the 20th Anniversary of John Nance Garner Elementary School.

HONORING DAVID H. BRUNE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to a friend of mine, a community visionary, a loving family man, and a true Texan who passed away last month.

David H. Brune was a man who lived a great life; he was dedicated to and loved his family, his church, and his work. His impact on the North Texas community was truly remarkable. As a lawyer, his expertise in water issues allowed for the Dallas County community of Las Colinas to be developed.

For five decades David H. Brune used his talents and his passion to serve the greater good of Texas. He helped to expand the potability of water, improve flood control, and turn flood plains into neighborhoods.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We can all be great because we can all serve." David H. Brune answered his call to community service

and helped to shape North Texas. He will be missed, but his legacy will endure. I offer my condolences to his two daughters, Claudia Sandbach and Elizabeth Hark, his five grandchildren, and his one great-grandchild.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ANTI-
TRUST MODERNIZATION COMMIS-
SION EXTENSION ACT OF 2007"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Antitrust Modernization Commission Extension Act of 2007," legislation that allows the Antitrust Modernization Commission to finalize its report and shut down its operations in an appropriate time frame. I am joined by Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH.

In passing the Antitrust Modernization Act of 2002, Congress established this Commission to "examine whether the need exists to modernize [the U.S.] antitrust laws." In 2 months, I expect the Commission will provide its recommendations to Congress in its final report.

The Commission has expressed concerns over the statutorily required 30 day deadline to shut down its operations completely while also finalizing its report to Congress. For example, dismantling the Commission will require it to begin archiving its records prior to completion of the report, which would likely affect the integrity of the report. For this and other reasons, it makes sense to give the Commission adequate time to wrap up.

This bill allows the Commission to complete its report before beginning the process of shutting down operations by extending the Commission's administrative shutdown from 30 to 60 days. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERV-
ICES OF GREATER CLEVELAND'S
30TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHS GC), which is celebrating its 30th Annual Luncheon on January 25, 2007, at the Bohemian National Hall in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood.

Neighborhood housing has created homeownership and built communities for over 30 years. NHS GC, a trusted not-for-profit organization, has provided families in Northeast Ohio with the housing education and home repair loans they need to buy, improve and keep their homes. NHS GC was incorporated in July 1975 to revitalize Cleveland neighborhoods by providing programs and services that improve the communities and enhance the quality of life of residents. Realizing its primary market niche was providing a comprehensive service package to clients interested in homeownership, NHS GC is also one of the leading providers of rehab services and loan products.

This experience has led NHS GC to expand its focus from traditional "neighborhood based" market to the entire City of Cleveland, while also expanding throughout Cuyahoga County and other strategic locations. NHS GC partners with both public and private institutions to help more than 1,300 people each year. In its efforts to build strong communities, NHS GC is led by local residents and guided by local needs.

As a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, one of nearly 245 organizations working in nearly 4,400 urban, suburbs and rural communities nationwide, NHS GC is certified to meet a high standard of fiscal integrity and service to help residents in developing leadership, improving their neighborhoods, and securing decent housing that is affordable. Its link to this powerful and unique nationwide network of community development organizations adds great value to what it is able to accomplish in Northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the great accomplishments of Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland as it celebrates its 30th Annual Luncheon on January 25, and in committing ourselves to joining with this nonprofit organization in rebuilding our nation's great cities like Cleveland.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PERCY
LAVON JULIAN

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and achievements of Dr. Percy Lavon Julian, the grandson of Alabama ex-slaves who rose to become an American research chemist of international acclaim. Dr. Julian's son, Percy Julian Jr., works on social justice issues as a practicing attorney in my home state of Wisconsin.

While working on the West Side of Chicago for the Glidden Paint Company, Dr. Julian worked in soybean research where he developed foam that put out oil and gas fires. During World War II the Navy saved many lives by using a foam fire extinguisher.

He later discovered a special process to synthesize cortisone from soy beans and yams, allowing the widespread use of cortisone as an affordable treatment of arthritis.

Dr. Julian's achievements did not come easily. Because formal education for African Americans in Alabama stopped at eighth grade, he was forced to move from Montgomery to Greencastle, Indiana where he attended De Paul University as a subfreshman. As a student, he worked as a waiter and a ditch digger in order to pay his tuition and make ends meet. During the night he laid the groundwork for his future discoveries by devoting his energies to study of chemistry.

Dr. Julian's perseverance and determination paid off and, in 1920, he graduated from DePaul University in Indiana at the head of his class and was honored as Phi Beta Kappa orator and valedictorian. In 1923, he earned his master's degree from Harvard University, again in the top group of his class.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Julian also overcame adversity in his private life. His home in the

all-white neighborhood of Oak Park in Chicago was firebombed. He refused to move from the area, determined to break down the walls of segregation around him. An activist for civil rights he composed and delivered numerous speeches in an effort to bring about equality for African-Americans.

It is a true honor to support this resolution, H. Con. Res. 34, which honors the life of Dr. Percy Lavon Julian and recognizes his incredible accomplishments.

HONORING DOUGLAS D.
HAWTHORNE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been a distinct honor over the years to take note of the extraordinary valuable work done by Douglas D. Hawthorne for the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the State of Texas and this Nation.

Mr. Hawthorne, president and chief executive of Texas Health Resources was recognized this fall, when he received the Greer Garson-E.E. Fogelson Humanitarian Award at the Greer Garson Gala. Mr. Hawthorne serves as a national role model through his leadership and unwavering commitment to helping people and furthering the awareness of Parkinson's disease in our community.

For more than a decade, Mr. Hawthorne has conducted a "quite revolution" in the treatment of Alzheimer. He helped establish the APDA's Parkinson's Information and Referral Center at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas in 1990 and developed a relationship with the local chapter.

Hawthorne served as president and chief executive officer of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources from 1983 until the formation of Texas Health Resources in 1997. He is past chairman of Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council and the Texas Hospital Association (THA). In 1996, he received the Boone Powell Sr. Award of Excellence for distinguished hospital administration by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council. In 1994, he received THA's highest award, The Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Hospital Administration. He has chaired several American Hospital Association (AHA) committees and is a former at-large member of AHA's Board of Trustees. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), he received the Gold Medal Award in 2002, ACHE Regent Senior Level Health Care Executive Award in 1991 and served as Regent for Texas Greater Dallas/Fort Worth area of the ACHE. In 2003, Modern Healthcare magazine named Hawthorne number 30 on its list of the "100 Most Powerful People in Health Care."

Madam Speaker, as one who has worked closely with Alzheimer patients, I know that his efforts for battling this disease are unequalled and he is certainly one of our community's great leaders. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor Douglas Hawthorne, on the occasion of his receiving the Greer Garson-E.E. Fogelson Humanitarian Award.

HONORING PARKER ANNEX
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the outstanding achievements of the fifth grade mathematics team at Parker Annex Elementary School in Trenton, New Jersey.

Recently, The Parker Annex Elementary School's fifth-grade "Isotope6NJ" team was recognized as the #1 ranked mathematics team in the First In Math Online Program. To earn this distinction, they out-performed more than 10,000 online teams comprised of 300,000 students from 30 other states. Led by fifth-grade teacher Edward Butler, this extraordinary group of inner-city students overcame obstacles such as lack of computers at home and a late start to this year's competition to become the top-ranked math team in the country. Additionally, Parker Annex teams "ember31NJ" and "music22NJ" are currently ranked 2nd and 3rd in New Jersey, respectively.

I am delighted by the students' achievement and proud of Trenton, but I am not surprised by what their collective will and substantial effort have achieved. This is the predictable result of a community effort to invest in the potential of its emerging minds. It showcases how motivated students, caring parents, dedicated teachers, and committed school administrators can cooperate to build a team that represents not only its students' best efforts but also an example of what makes Trenton a truly capital city.

This laudable achievement also highlights why I have always been and continue to be an advocate for math and science education. Math and science education in the elementary grades is foundational to the growth of our New Jersey students and an academically literate citizenry. Inquiry-based science and math curricula are necessary to allow students to explore their world critically and experientially, which is shown to increase intrinsic motivation and further interest in science.

The success of the program at Parker Annex Elementary School is a tribute to the students, faculty, administration, and the scientific community. I applaud the success of team "Isotope6NJ" and wish the students of Parker Annex continued success in their academic endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 110—
SUPPORTING THE WEED AND
SEED AND COPS PROGRAMS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss legislation I introduced, in support of the Community Oriented Policing Services in the Department of Justice and the Weed and Seed program, led by the United States Attorney's Offices.

These two programs are the bedrock of community involvement in ending the cycle of violence that plagues our cities.

Weed and Seed is an innovative, comprehensive, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.

It is a strategy that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity.

The U.S. Attorney's Office plays a leadership role in organizing local officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders.

Frankly, I am pleased the highest federal prosecutor in the region is getting involved with the community he or she is prosecuting. These United States Attorneys work hard and do not want to see people in the system.

Every Weed and Seed site is required to establish a Safe Haven, a multi-service center where many youth- and adult-oriented services are delivered. These are often housed in a school or community center.

The main goal of Weed and Seed is promoting the long-term health of communities.

However, the funding for this worthy program has hit some rough spots in recent years.

Funding for the program increased every year from its inception in 1993.

In 2005, \$62 million was appropriated. However, requested funding in subsequent years fell to \$50 million in 2006 and \$49 million in 2007. This is a program that works.

We must continue the funding. Our cities need it. Our children need it.

My resolution also discusses the positive aspects of the COPS Program.

The community-oriented policing component bridges the "weeding" and "seeding" elements of the Weed and Seed strategy.

I think we all can agree that community-based strategies for solving crime problems brings a sense of responsibility within the community and help develop cooperative relationships between the police and residents.

Also, community policing embraces the two key concepts of community engagement and problem solving.

Having the community involved is the most important aspect to preventing crime and removing our kids from the vicious cycle of violence.

When everyone gets involved, we all benefit.

The COPS Program has been an overwhelming success.

COPS has funded more than 118,400 police officers and sheriff's deputies.

COPS has funded more than 6,454 school resource officers and trained more than 9,158 school resource officers and school administrators.

COPS has funded large and small jurisdictions, in fact 87% of COPS grantees serve populations of less than 50,000.

That is a community benefiting from Cops on the beat.

However, this president does not see fit to fund this program. In fact, the Bush Administration has not funded the COPS program for the last few years.

We can do better, and this resolution is a good beginning.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. ROSA AGUIGUI REYES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Rosa Aguigui Reyes, the first woman to win election to public office on Guam. Her precedent setting election broke through the "marble ceiling" present on Guam at that time. In doing so, she paved the way for other women—including me—to serve as elected leaders of our island's community. Mrs. Reyes, elected to the Guam Congress's House of Assembly in 1946, passed away on January 29, 2007, at the age of 91.

Uniformed officers of the Department of the Navy were appointed by the President of the United States to serve as Governor of Guam for the period immediately following the liberation of Guam from enemy occupation. The bicameral Congress on Guam served at this time as an advisory body to the governor. Members of the Guam Congress were bona fide representatives of their constituents but possessed no legislative powers.

Mrs. Reyes, by standing for election to Guam's Congress, defied convention. Governance on Guam was considered a male prerogative. Mrs. Reyes, to her credit and to the benefit of all of us who came after her, stood for office so that the voices of Guam's women could be heard, and they were. Mrs. Reyes served with honor and distinction. Her service remains as an inspiration for me and so many other women on Guam.

Mrs. Reyes, born in the village of Merizo on February 7, 1915, was not only a politician. In fact, she was among the first group of teachers trained at the College of Guam. She graduated with an associate's degree in education in 1954. Mrs. Reyes, however, possessed significant experience as a classroom teacher well before her earning of her degree. Mrs. Reyes began teaching at Merizo Martyrs Elementary School in 1933. She taught there for 31 years. She also served for 11 years as principal of F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School in the village of Umatat before retiring from the Guam Public School System.

Mrs. Reyes also worked as the principal research assistant to the late Dr. Laura Thompson, an anthropologist who authored studies about Chamorro culture and history before and after World War II. Dr. Thompson returned to Guam shortly after the war to conduct continued research on Guam's culture and to determine what effects and impacts the years of occupation during the war had on the Chamorro people. Mrs. Reyes and Dr. Thompson enjoyed a joyful reunion in 1987, when Dr. Thompson made her final trip to Guam.

Mrs. Reyes was enrolled in the Guam Educators' Hall of Fame in 1983, in recognition of her legacy as an educator, her contributions to the study of Chamorro history and culture, and her courage and leadership in teaching us that women can rightfully and ably serve in elected public office. She remained committed to serving her church and its community activities throughout her life. Her interest in cultural preservation and in traditional arts also never waned. Mrs. Reyes, as evidence of the

strength of her character, remained humble despite having established a prominent, diverse, and precedent setting legacy for herself in the history of our island and in the hearts of our people. Mrs. Reyes is an admirable role model and her life will inspire future generations of leaders on Guam.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the passing of Mrs. Rosa Aguigui Reyes and I offer my condolences to her husband, Mr. Ignacio Reyes, a former commissioner of Merizo, and her children and grandchildren. I thank them for supporting her efforts to contribute to the betterment of Guam. They can be proud of her achievements, and we share in their pride for her legacy.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SHAWN FALTER

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to PFC Shawn Falter, who gave his life in service to our Nation on Saturday, January 20 in Karbala, Iraq.

Shawn grew up in the town of Homer, NY, and was a dedicated and loving son, brother and friend to many. As a student at Homer High School, Shawn excelled both on the field and in the classroom. He was a hard-working student, a natural leader, and a selfless friend who could light up a room with impeccable timing.

Shawn enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2005, following in the footsteps of his three older brothers. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division deployed out of Fort Richardson, AK. Sadly, Shawn was killed during an ambush in Karbala, Iraq earlier this week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Shawn was truly an exemplary American who served his country bravely. Our Nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Shawn Falter fighting to protect us and others around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring PFC Shawn Falter, along with all of the other brave Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LOU FALCONI

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Lou Falconi, who recently retired after 33 years at Farrell High School. I wish to recognize Mr. Falconi for his service to the Farrell Area School District both as a teacher and a football coach.

Mr. Falconi took over the high school football program at Farrell in 1980. Over the course of his legendary career, he led the team to three appearances in the State finals, winning two State championships. Amazingly, he has been honored eight separate times as

"Coach of the Year." In total, Coach Falconi led the high school football team for 27 years and ended his coaching career as the second winningest coach in Mercer County history.

On Friday, February 9, 2007, the friends, family, and colleagues of Mr. Lou Falconi will come together to celebrate and honor his life's achievements and his commitment to the community. I plan to join them in thanking him for his service and the positive impact he has had on hundreds of kids in Farrell and throughout the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IRAQ POLICY REVITALIZATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 744, the Iraq Policy Revitalization and Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act. This bill is a modified version of H.R. 5630, the Iraq Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act, which I introduced on June 16, 2006, during the 109th Congress.

H.R. 744 expresses strong, continued support for United States military and civilian personnel deployed to Iraq and serving worldwide in support of the mission in that country. We owe these individuals a debt of gratitude that is simply un-payable.

Section two of H.R. 744 provides a select catalog of major events that have shaped Operation Iraqi Freedom. This section of the bill is not operative but is important to the context through which this bill should be reviewed.

Section three of this bill provides a comprehensive set of policy statements that would express grave concerns with the fact that the Government of Iraq, at the present time, appears to be incapable or unwilling to govern in a unified manner in the interest of all Iraqis. That is, the bill would express Congress's concern that representatives of the various, prominent parties in Iraq use their government offices, public resources, ministry employment opportunities under their control, and certain units of Iraqi Security Forces, in addition to their political militias, vigilantes, and criminal groups, to seek to achieve their party's individual, parochial, biased, and competing political, economic and security objectives, in order to bolster their party's political, economic, and military power in and influence throughout Iraq. This bill would express grave concern that the inability or unwillingness of the Government of Iraq to govern in moderate terms contributes to violence against United States servicemembers and Coalition forces, creates barriers to national reconciliation in Iraq, and impedes the expeditious completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the return of our servicemembers to their peacetime duty stations. Section three of the bill raises significant issues regarding the reliability of the Government of Iraq that should be reviewed and considered as Congress proceeds in its review of current United States policy toward Iraq.

H.R. 744 also would enhance our ability to engage in more detailed, coordinated, and

better informed oversight of activities with respect to Iraq. The provisions of section four of this bill would first consolidate existing, overlapping congressional reporting requirements. Section four of H.R. 744 would provide for a unique, comprehensive and focused analytical model around which future reporting to Congress by the Administration can be organized. That is, this bill would require from the President a single, regular, consolidated and comprehensive report that more exactly defines the political, economic, security, infrastructure, and governance capacity building benchmarks that are necessary and possible for United States military and civilian personnel to achieve at the various levels of government in Iraq in order to complete Operation Iraqi Freedom. The information contained in such a report also would include whether programs and projects that are essential to achieving those benchmarks are being executed; whether those programs and projects are successful toward achieving those ends; and whether gaps exist. The report pursuant to section four of H.R. 744, moreover, would include a comprehensive intelligence assessment of Iraq. Furthermore, and notably, the report would include sections that provide the President the opportunity to justify why he did not adopt and implement any of the recommendations made by the Iraq Study Group.

Section five of H.R. 744 would require that the President utilize—to the extent possible—the benchmarks he reports to Congress as a foundation for a multilateral agreement between the United States, Coalition countries, the Government of Iraq, regional countries, where appropriate, and relevant multilateral organizations to help stabilize Iraq. Countries in the region and the international community need to be more fully engaged and participating in the effort to stabilize Iraq. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey and others among the international community should have a strong interest in a stable Iraq and we should welcome and encourage their further involvement in the process of stabilizing Iraq. Engaging Syria and Iran with regard to Iraq policy is a serious issue. It is an issue that requires vigorous and thorough debate. A wide range of opinions on the issue of engagement with Syria and Iran with regard to Iraq may exist. For this reason, an effort toward reaching consensus on this issue should be pursued. It is because of the lack of consensus on this issue that I have written into H.R. 744 the conditioning phrase—“(where appropriate)” —in the provisions that would direct the President to engage regional countries.

H.R. 744 would not set a timeline or deadline for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. The bill also is silent on whether the President should increase the numbers of troops in Iraq or should initiate a phased withdrawal of forces from Iraq. But H.R. 744 would express grave concern that prolonged commitment of United States Armed Forces to Iraq may adversely affect the overall readiness of our military and hamper its ability to provide adequate resources to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and to other contingencies around the world. Lastly, H.R. 744 does not dictate to the President the terms of completion for the mission in Iraq.

The war in Iraq is approaching its fourth year. The year 2007 will be perhaps the most challenging and critical year to date for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 110th Congress,

which was recently elected, will be the third consecutive Congress responsible for providing oversight of this war. Recent commentary notes Congress's record of oversight of Iraq is not one with which we should be satisfied. Our oversight of Iraq must be improved, and soon.

We are leaders with the responsibility, authority, and ability to act. We are leaders whose actions or inactions will have impacts—either positive or negative—that will span not only two-year election cycles, but also decades and possibly generations. We are leaders who history will judge not just by the power of our words, but also by the wisdom and courage of our actions. The seriousness of the situation in Iraq should compel this body to place a renewed emphasis on revitalizing United States-Iraq policy and enhancing Congressional oversight of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Support for H.R. 744 will go far toward achieving these objectives.

H.R. 744 recognizes the complex and interdependent nature of the challenges Coalition forces, civilian personnel and the Government of Iraq face today. That is, each level of government in Iraq—national, national capital city, regional, provincial, provincial capital, and municipal—experiences both shared and unique, and both isolated and interrelated political, economic, security, infrastructure, and governance capacity development challenges. The fact that, in some cases, difficult, contentious, or inefficient relationships between the central government in Baghdad and the regional and various provincial governments exist adds an additional level of complexity to establishing good and effective governance in Iraq. Iraq also is home to individuals of various ethnicities—such as Arabs, Kurds, Turcoman, Assyrians, and others—who ascribe to various religions—such as Sunni or Shia Islam, Christianity, Yezidi, and others—and who speak a variety of languages—such as Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, and Armenian. Some of Iraq's provinces are largely homogenous, such as Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Basra, or Anbar. Others contain a combination of demographic groups such as Kirkuk, Nineweh and Babil. Still others, such as Baghdad, contain a mix of all of the groups. This ethnic, religious, and cultural variety creates complex political, economic, security, governance, and social challenges on the ground in Iraq. And it is within these levels of government in Iraq, in these cities and communities and among these diverse ethnic groups, and against these political, economic, security, governance, and social complexities and challenges that our servicemembers and civilian personnel serving in Iraq work to develop that country politically, economically, and infrastructure and security-wise, as well as work to build governance capacity at each of the levels of government in Iraq. Their mission is a difficult, varied, and complicated one. It is one that is vastly more complicated and complex than recent congressional debate and congressional oversight efforts would reveal. And both must be brought more into line with the realities that our personnel on the ground in Iraq face daily.

It is not within our capacity to solve all of Iraq's problems, nor is solving all of them necessary to honorably and expeditiously complete the mission in Iraq and to bring our troops home. Solving the key problems, however, is essential to completing the mission in Iraq. H.R. 744 would require the President to

identify specifically which problems at and between each level of governance in Iraq and among the various pillars of our activities there are necessary and possible for us to solve in order to complete Operation Iraqi Freedom. The bill also would require the President to identify the programs, projects and activities utilized to achieve these vital measures and other benchmarks. Moreover, H.R. 744 would require the President to provide regular, consolidated and comprehensive reporting to Congress on the progress toward achieving these benchmarks. But while requiring this specific information H.R. 744 also provides the President flexibility to adjust or modify the benchmarks should events on the ground necessitate that such adjustments or modifications be made. Under the provisions of H.R. 744, however, the President would be required to provide detailed justification material to Congress to support adjustments or modifications made to the benchmarks.

As I noted in my introductory statement for H.R. 5630 in the 109th Congress, three legislative initiatives of the immediate previous Congress have required reports along these lines. These reports, provided to Congress by the Secretary of Defense, contain useful information. But, when taken together, the requirements and the content of these reports may not be sufficient for this Congress to fully exercise its oversight responsibilities pertaining to this war. A single report to provide a clear and full account of what is necessary and possible for the United States to achieve in Iraq—at the various levels of government within Iraq; what the United States Armed Forces and civilian personnel are tasked with in order to achieve those objectives; and where they are in the process of achieving them, would go far toward ensuring Congress has the information it needs to best fulfill its Constitutional responsibilities. H.R. 744 would consolidate the existing reporting requirements into a single reporting requirement of this nature.

The setting of benchmarks is not an easy task to accomplish. But it is one that must be accomplished. The setting of benchmarks alone, however, is not enough. Programs and projects must be implemented to achieve them. H.R. 744 would require the President to use these benchmarks as the foundation for a multilateral agreement to further provide for the completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom. An international agreement of this kind is needed because some of Iraq's key problems are undeniably international in nature; and they become more so—not less so—as each day passes.

An international agreement as urged by section five of this Act will help bring renewed focus to and enhanced international cooperation toward resolving Iraq's problems. Second, it will help reaffirm the existence of a united front against elements that seek to destabilize Iraq, and thus bring added pressure to bear on those actors. Third, this agreement would provide for the formation of a forum in which current and future regional security, political, and economic issues regarding Iraq's continued development can be discussed and addressed. The establishment and maintenance of conciliatory relations between Iraq, its neighbors, regional states and the international community is essential to stabilizing Iraq internally. The agreement called for by this legislative proposal, if successful, could be

utilized and expanded to form the foundation—or beginnings—of a lasting regional security arrangement. H.R. 744 would require the President to report regularly on the progress toward implementing such an agreement.

As I noted in my introductory statement for H.R. 5630 in the 109th Congress, I am a member of the Committee on Armed Services and I have traveled to Iraq eight times since taking office in 2003. These trips have allowed me to observe our operations in Iraq and to personally speak with our commanders, servicemembers, and civilian personnel in the field. I have also had the opportunity to speak with Iraqi leaders during these visits. As a result, I have learned a great deal about the accomplishments made in Iraq to date. I have also learned of the many challenges that remain there. This legislation would provide us the information we need to make better informed decisions on policy with regard to Iraq.

I believe that an honest and open exchange of views on the substance of what our country

and our allies must achieve in Iraq in order to complete Operation Iraq Freedom is needed. I also believe that our service in this body is never more consequential than it is when our troops are in harm's way. Debate regarding issues of war and peace deserve sober reflection, reasoned thinking, critical focus, and balanced perspective. Having this debate and conducting oversight in this manner is an institutional responsibility for the House of Representatives. But it also is a personal responsibility for each of us as representatives of our constituents. The continued sacrifices made by our military and civilian personnel serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, those made by Coalition personnel, and those made by Iraqi patriots only further reinforce the need to elevate our discussion on the merits of and the challenges associated with what remains of the mission in Iraq.

I do not have the privilege of a full vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. And I represent American citizens serving in the United States Armed Forces who, because

they are residents of Guam, cannot vote for their Commander-in Chief. Introducing legislation to revitalize Iraq policy and enhance Congressional oversight of Operation Iraqi Freedom represents a good faith effort on my part to fulfill my obligation to serve those who are serving us in defense of our freedoms.

Finding an achievable, expeditious, and honorable way to complete Operation Iraqi Freedom should be a primary goal for all of us. We owe this to those who have sacrificed so much for this mission. But the situation in Iraq will not yield a solution easily. Nevertheless, we must endeavor to find one. In doing so we will be helping shape in the best way possible the legacy future generations of Americans will inherit and the one we will have to defend to history. I am confident that the provisions of H.R. 744 will help toward achieving these ends. I respectfully request that my colleagues review and consider the provisions of this legislative proposal.